No.
11

Again!!

アゲイン!!

Mitsurou Kubo

Mitsurou Kubo

No.
11



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112. THE OUENDAN IS TOO MUCH!



BAFF

YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT AS CAPTAIN IF THIS IS ALL YOU CAN TAKE! DO YOU GIVE UP YET? HUH?!

COME ON, IMA-MURA!

DON'T STOP NOW!

UNH ...

IF YOU WANT TO QUIT, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CAPTAIN.

I KNEW YOU COULDN'T DO IT, IMAMURA.

YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY I WANT TO BE CAPTAIN! GRATEFUL! APPRECIATIVE! THE OUENDAN WOULD FALL APART WITHOUT ME!

WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE ENCOUR-AGING?

I WANT TO FIND OUT IF YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS ARE UP TO SNUFF.

I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED YOU'RE CAPTAIN MATERIAL!

SO I'M GOING TO OBSERVE YOU FOR A WHILE.

SHE USED TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT! WASN'T SHE HOPING I'D BECOME CAPTAIN?

...TO SEEING YOUR CHEERING, CAPTAIN IMA-MURA.

I LOOK FOR-WARD ...

FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

YOU'RE OUR CAPTAIN.

YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF KANAN'S OUENDAN NOW!

THANK YOU!

GLOMP

カバッ

YOU'VE COME SO FAR!

GREAT!

YOU WANT TO BE CAP-TAIN?!

ENDUR-ANCE IS THE MOST BASIC OF THE BASICS!

AT LEAST PICK SOME-THING RELEVANT TO CHEER-ING.

BUNNY HOPS DON'T EVEN DO ANYTHING! IT'S JUST HAZING.

...GIVE ME FIVE KILO-METERS OF BUNNY HOPS.

NEXT ...

THAT'S HOW I THOUGHT THIS WOULD GO.

*APPROX. 3 MILES

のうGRRR

YOU'RE WOBBL-ING. KEEP STEADY.

CHAN-KUMA!

NO ONE'S GOING TO DO ANYTHING THE CAPTAIN CAN'T DO.

LISTEN TO YOURSELF. DO YOU THINK THAT'S ANY WAY TO SET AN EXAMPLE?

NO.

FUCK!!

GLIMMER GLIMMER

PANT

(PANT)

WOULD THAT BE ALL RIGHT?

MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A BREAK.

...

I WANT TO

NOW DO YOU SEE MY POINT?

HEH HEH HEH.

FUCK! FUCK! FUCK! FUCK!

YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO LEAD, EVEN KNOWING YOU WILL BE HATED FOR IT.

...FIRST,

HUH?

ZZSKSssH

TO BE CAPTAIN ...

CAN YOU DO IT?

SO TELL ME,

I WANT TO

YOU WILL LEAD THE OUENDAN STRICTLY OR NOT AT ALL!

IT SUCKS.

SCREW THE OUEN-DAN.

WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF ALL THIS TRAIN-ING?

FLOP

FLOP

AAAGH, I'M SO TIRED AND SORE. I'M DONE!

I'VE GOT TO BE STRICT.

HIRO-KUN,

QUIT WHINING AND GET BACK TO PRACTICE.

IF I HEAR YOU COMPLAIN ONE MORE TIME, I'LL HOLD YOU DOWN AND SHAVE YOUR HEAD.

THUNK

I'M A GIRL, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

I CAN'T DO IT! THIS TRAINING IS IMPOS-SIBLE!

I WANT A BREAK.

I'M JUST TIRED.

AAGH.

BUT THIS JOGGING REGIMEN WAS DESIGNED FOR GIRLS...

I NEVER EVEN ASKED TO BE IN THE OUENDAN!

NEXT ENTRANCE

800m ahead Look for golden arches

I WANT A NICE, COLD GLASS OF LEMONADE.

GO TO AMERICA IF YOU WANT TO BUY LEMONADE OFF THE SIDE OF THE ROAD!

KICK

FLINCH

TURN

I WANT TO DIE

YOU MAGGOT!

IJ... SQUISH

YOU WOULDN'T GET SICK IF YOU HAD MORE SPIRIT!

IJ... SQUISH

I already told you that, right?

I HAVE A COLD.

I'M SORRY.

BUCCCH...

KOFF KOFF

I'M SICK OF THIS

DO IT YOUR-SELF.

UHH, READY TO WORK ON PRO-JECT-ION?

WELL, THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO BEGIN WITH, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN WORSE.

CAP-TAIN!

I TRIED BEING STRICTER AND NOW MORALE IS LOWER THAN EVER!

PRAISE THEM TO WIN THEIR TRUST!

PSH!!

YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHEN TO USE THE CARROT AND WHEN TO USE THE STICK.

I WANT SOME!

WHOA, FOR REAL?

NICE!

I MADE SOME PUDDING. WOULD YOU GUYS LIKE ANY?

...

Carrot?

Stick?

...

NOM

NOM

THIS IS THE MOST DELICIOUS PUDDING I'VE EVER EATEN!

MOGUU

YOU'RE AMAZING, TAWARA-KUN! YOU COULD SELL THIS STUFF.

MOGUU

MMM! ♥ IT'S SO GOOD!

GOOD STUFF

YOU COULD TOTALLY SELL THIS STUFF!

WOW, THIS IS GOOD!

ALL RIGHT.

IT'S TIME FOR THE CARROT!

*CHALKBOARD: OUENDAN HOMEMADE PUDDING

THE NEXT DAY...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

CHATTER

CHATTER

QUJ!!

応援団が作った

ONLY THREE PER PERSON, PLEASE!

WE'RE SHORT ON ¥1000 BILLS

WE HAVE A LIMITED SUPPLY OF THIRTY!

*APPROX. $10 USD

THEY TOOK IT TO HEART!

YOU'RE MAKING CLOWNS OF US ALL!

THE OUENDAN DOES NOT SELL PUDDING!

BUT WE ALREADY MADE SOME BREAD TO SELL TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE SWEETS.

THE OUENDAN WILL *NOT* SELL BREAD!

THIS IS PRETTY GOOD, THOUGH.

MUNCH MUNCH

THAT'S *NOT* WHAT THE OUENDAN IS FOR!

BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE WE TAKE CARE OF ALL THE RED TAPE SO WE CAN EXPAND INTO ONLINE SALES.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS WRONG OF US TO START DOING BUSINESS BEFORE WE GOT PERMISSION FROM THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

YOU NEED TO GET IT TOGETHER!

THIS IS HAPPENING BECAUSE YOU'RE FAILING TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP!

IMA-MURA!

AAAAAUGHH

AAAGH, CAPTAIN! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! I HATE YOU!

WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THEM?!

WHAT DID I DO?!

THE WAY CAPTAIN USAMI NEVER GIVES UP IS A REAL TALENT.

I UNDER-STAND WANTING TO QUIT.

I KNOW THAT FEELING BETTER THAN ANYONE.

WHEEEZE

PANTS

BEFORE THE DO-OVER, I WAS ALWAYS A QUITTER.

AND THANKS TO THAT...

...I'M USED TO THINGS NOT GOING MY WAY.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM A PRO AT GIVING UP.

GULP

I GUESS THAT MUST BE MY TALENT.

SO, LET'S SEE...

HOW AM I GONNA DO THIS?



113. EVERY CAPTAIN'S DIFFERENT



PANT

PANT

PANT

I'M DONE.

I'M SO TIRED.

AAAGH, I'M SICK OF THIS.

HUGH ...

HNGH.

HUP

ROLL

HUP.

HNGH.

HUP

THUNK

OW!

I CAN JUST LET MY-SELF GO.

ROLL ROLL ROLL

EVEN IF I DO BECOME CAPTAIN, THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING ME FROM SKIPPING IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

IT'S LIKE ROLLING DOWN THIS HILL.

BUZZ

BUZZ

CAN YOU GET UP?

HEY! ARE YOU HURT?

LICK

LICK

LICK

LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK

THE QUESTION IS HOW TO GET BACK-

YEAH.

I'LL STOP ONCE I HIT ROCK BOTTOM.

SO...

DO YOU NEED HELP GETTING UP?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OSU!

I'M FINE.

OH!

CAN YOU MAKE IT HOME?

FWIP

I GET THAT, BUT HOW HAVE THE OTHERS DONE THINGS UNTIL NOW?

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T BE CAPTAIN ON MY OWN.

SLURRP

?

BWA HA HA HA!

OUENDAN

SO YEAH!

I CAN'T JUST IMITATE CAPTAIN USAMI.

I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT MY OWN WAY OF BEING CAPTAIN.

SLIDE!!!

SOUNDS LIKE SOME-BODY'S HAVING FUN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THIS PUDDING'S REALLY GOOD.

I LIKE WHEN IT'S A LITTLE THICK LIKE THIS.

OH YEAH!

OH, LET ME START SOME COFFEE.

OSU.

IS THIS THE ONE YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT?

USAMI

HE'S WEARING A fedora?

WHO'S THAT?

OH! IMA-MURA.

IMA-MURA,

I'LL INTRO-DUCE YOU.

THIS MAN WAS CAPTAIN TWO YEARS BEFORE ME. NOW HE'S-

I'M NATSUHIKO KONDO FROM NORTH KANTO MEDICAL UNI-VERSITY'S OUENDAN.

OSU!

OUEN-DAN?

WAIT ...

THIS GUY'S IN ONE?

?!

HEH HEH

WHAT?

WERE YOU HOPING I'D BE A LITTLE MORE OLD-SCHOOL?

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL TO FIND FASHIONABLE PEOPLE LIKE ME IN OUENDAN THESE DAYS.

I STILL PUT ON MY BLAZER AND WORK UP A SWEAT, THE SAME AS EVER.

BUT, IT'S TRUE THAT MY COLLEGE OUENDAN IS A STRICT AND OLD-FASHIONED ORGANI-ZATION.

GOD, WHAT'S WITH THOSE BAGGY CLOTHES? AND HE'S WEARING ALL BLACK, TOO.

HE LOOKS LIKE HE WENT OFF TO COLLEGE AND TURNED INTO A HIPSTER.

WELL, YOU'LL KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME!

OH!

SNAP

I'M TRYING TO GET IN THERE, TOO, SO I CAN BECOME A DOCTOR!

UH, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO NORTH KANTO?

DON'T LET THE MEDIA FOOL YOU!

NOT AT ALL!

I SAW THIS DOCU-MENTARY ABOUT IT.

COLLEGE OUENDAN LIFE MUST BE PRETTY TOUGH, HUH?

SO, HEY.

ALUMNI CAN HELP YOU LAND A JOB!

EVERY-THING YOU GO THROUGH IN THE OUENDAN WILL PAY OFF LATER IN LIFE!

AND OLDER WOMEN KNOW YOU'RE GOING PLACES, SO YOU CAN EVEN GET WITH COUGARS!

GIRLS RESPECT YOU, SO YOU GET INVITED TO ALL KINDS OF SINGLES PARTIES!

YOU GUYS WILL FEEL THE SAME WAY ONE DAY!

FWISH!!

YOU'LL BE SO GLAD YOU WERE IN THE OUENDAN!

I KNOW IT!

WAAAGH, HE'S GIVING ME HIVES! NO ONE WHO LOOKS THAT DORKY SHOULD HAVE SO MUCH SELF-ESTEEM!

LET'S STEP OUT-SIDE

GAGAGAH

WAAAGH

!! ぽぽぽ

HE CALLED YESTERDAY, AND I TOLD HIM YOU WERE DOING A TRIAL PERIOD TO SEE IF YOU'D BE OUR NEXT CAPTAIN.

THEN, TODAY, HE SHOWED UP.

HE LIKES TO CHECK UP ON US EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

ROAR

WHAT IS HE EVEN DOING HERE?

WHAT'S HIS PROB-LEM?

... BUT?

HE'S HELPED ME A LOT.

I DON'T HATE HIM.

NO,

HURK

DO YOU HATE HIM?

SO, CAP-TAIN,

THAT'S WHY, SINCE HIS TIME AS CAPTAIN, PEOPLE CALL HIM *SUMMERHIKO* BEHIND HIS BACK.

HE'S A SWEET SUMMER CHILD, AS THEY SAY. I'M NOT A FAN OF THAT.

HE IS PERHAPS A LITTLE TOO POSITIVE.

SEE? *YOU* DON'T EVEN TAKE HIM SERIOUS-LY.

NOTE: IN ADDITION TO HIS EASYGOING PERSONALITY, THE FIRST CHARACTER IN NATSUHIKO'S NAME, *NATSU*, MEANS "SUMMER," HENCE HIS NICKNAME OF "SUMMERHIKO."

CAP-TAIN MAEDA ?!

FUCK

TAMAYA

WELL, AS A RESULT, WE GOT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KIND OF CAPTAIN THE YEAR AFTER.

WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?

FUCK

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO INCON-SIDERATE, THOUGH.

HE CALLED ME, SAID HE KNEW I MUST BE FREE, ANYWAY, SINCE I DON'T HAVE A REAL JOB OR GO TO SCHOOL.

AND, I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT I'M FREE.

YEAH.

SUMMER-HIKO IS THE ONE WHO INVITED ME.

CAPTAIN KONDO IS VISITING US RIGHT NOW, TOO.

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

FUCK

HA!

YEAH.

I'M USED TO IT.

DON'T PAY HIM ANY MIND, USAMI.

I SEE HIS CASUAL SEXISM HASN'T CHANGED.

UH...

HEY, YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO BE CAPTAIN?

YEAH.

I GUESS.

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!

MAE-SAN, YOU MADE IT!

GET THIS!

THAT BLOND GUY MIGHT BE THE NEXT CAPTAIN!

FUCK

TAMAYA

AS FORMER CAPTAINS, WE SHOULD SHOW HIM THE ROPES.

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT WHAT THAT ENTAILS, SINCE I'M SURE HE'S JUST BEEN STARING AT USAMI ALL YEAR.

HE'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE!

UH-HUH...

WELL, DON'T BOTHER TRYING TOO HARD.

IF YOU GET SICK OF IT, JUST DITCH EVERY-THING AND RUN.

IT'S NOT LIKE HAVING BEEN IN THE OUENDAN MEANS ANYTHING IN THE REAL WORLD.

BUT HE'S THE EXCEP-TION.

THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD SCHOOL, SO ALL THE OTHER OUENDAN MEMBERS HAVE GONE TO COLLEGE.

THESE DAYS, HE DOES ODD JOBS IN HIS HOME-TOWN.

HE HAD TO GIVE UP ON COLLEGE. HE FAILED HIS ENTRANCE EXAMS, AND HIS FAMILY FELL ON HARD TIMES.

MAEDA-SENPAI WAS CAPTAIN THE YEAR BEFORE USAMI.

AND ON THE SURFACE, HE LISTENED TO WHAT SUMMERHIKO SAID.

HE'S ACTUALLY REALLY NICE. HE WAS A GOOD CAPTAIN.

AH-HA!

IS THAT WHY HE'S SO NEGATIVE ABOUT EVERY-THING?

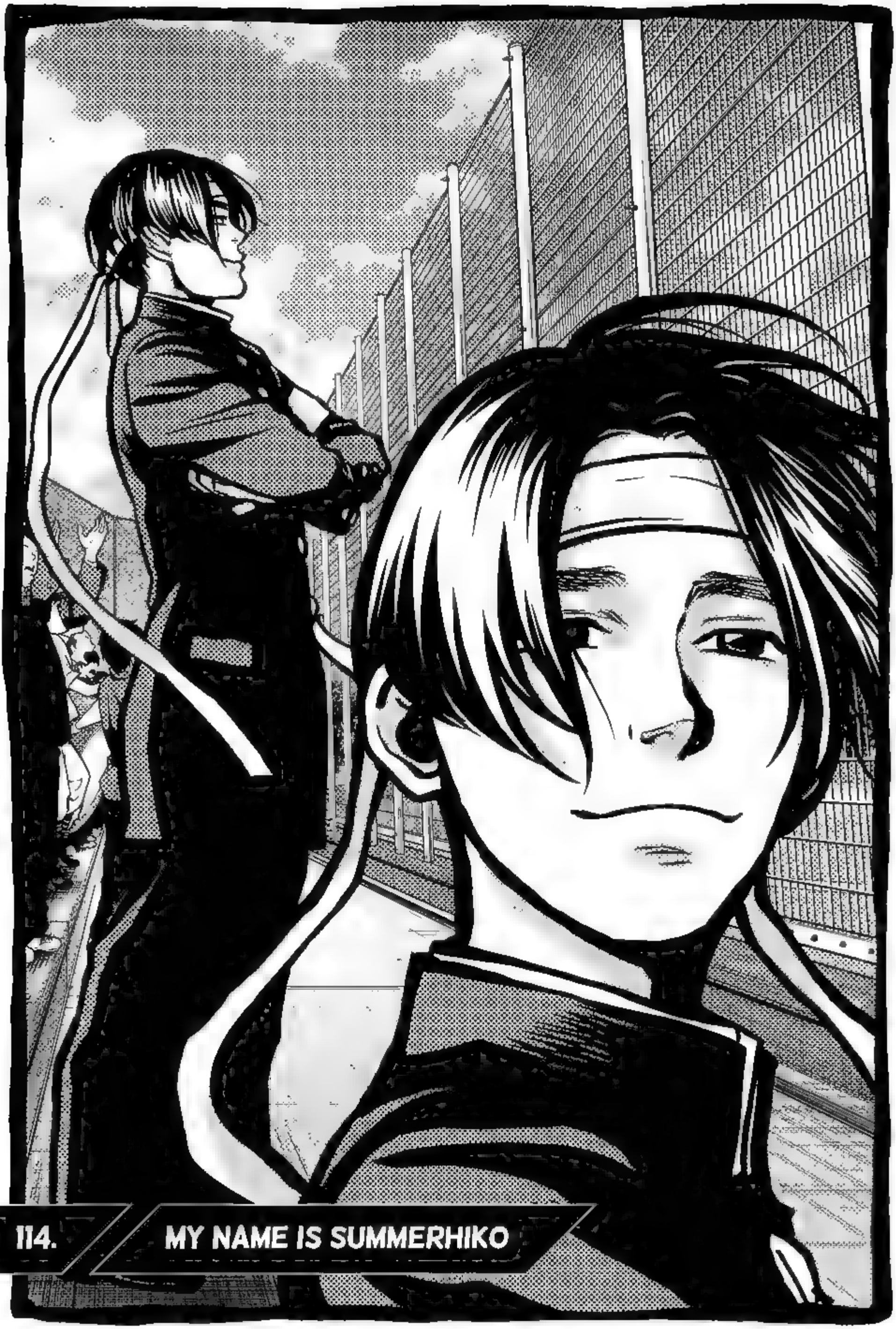
NOW SUMMERHIKO, EVERYONE HATED HIM.

Again!!

アゲイン!!

Again!!

アゲイン!!



114. MY NAME IS SUMMERHIKO

APRIL 2009

SAITAMA PREFECTURE KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL

ENTRANCE CEREMONY

HEY.

THAT GIRL'S PRETTY CUTE.

THINK SHE'S NEW?

WHERE'D SHE GO TO MIDDLE SCHOOL? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER.

LET'S SAY HI.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME!

GOOD MORN-ING!

NICE TO MEET YOU!!

I'M YOSHIKO USAMI!!

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME!

HELLO EVERY-ONE!!

BUT THIS *BIG CITY HIGH SCHOOL* IS AMAZING! AND I GET TO COME HERE EVERY DAY!

I NEVER SAW ANYONE BUT *ANIMALS* AND THE *LOCAL KIDS* AT MY *MIDDLE SCHOOL* OUT IN THE *MOUNTAINS.*

WA-HAAA!

FINALLY...

...I CAN JOIN A CLUB!

WHAT'S WITH HER? SHE'S CUTE, BUT SHE SEEMS KIND OF WEIRD.

WHIS-PER

YEAH, SOME-THING'S OFF.

?!

ALL RISE.

AND NOW FOR A CHEER BY THE OUENDAN TO WELCOME OUR NEW STUDENTS.

I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING NEW.

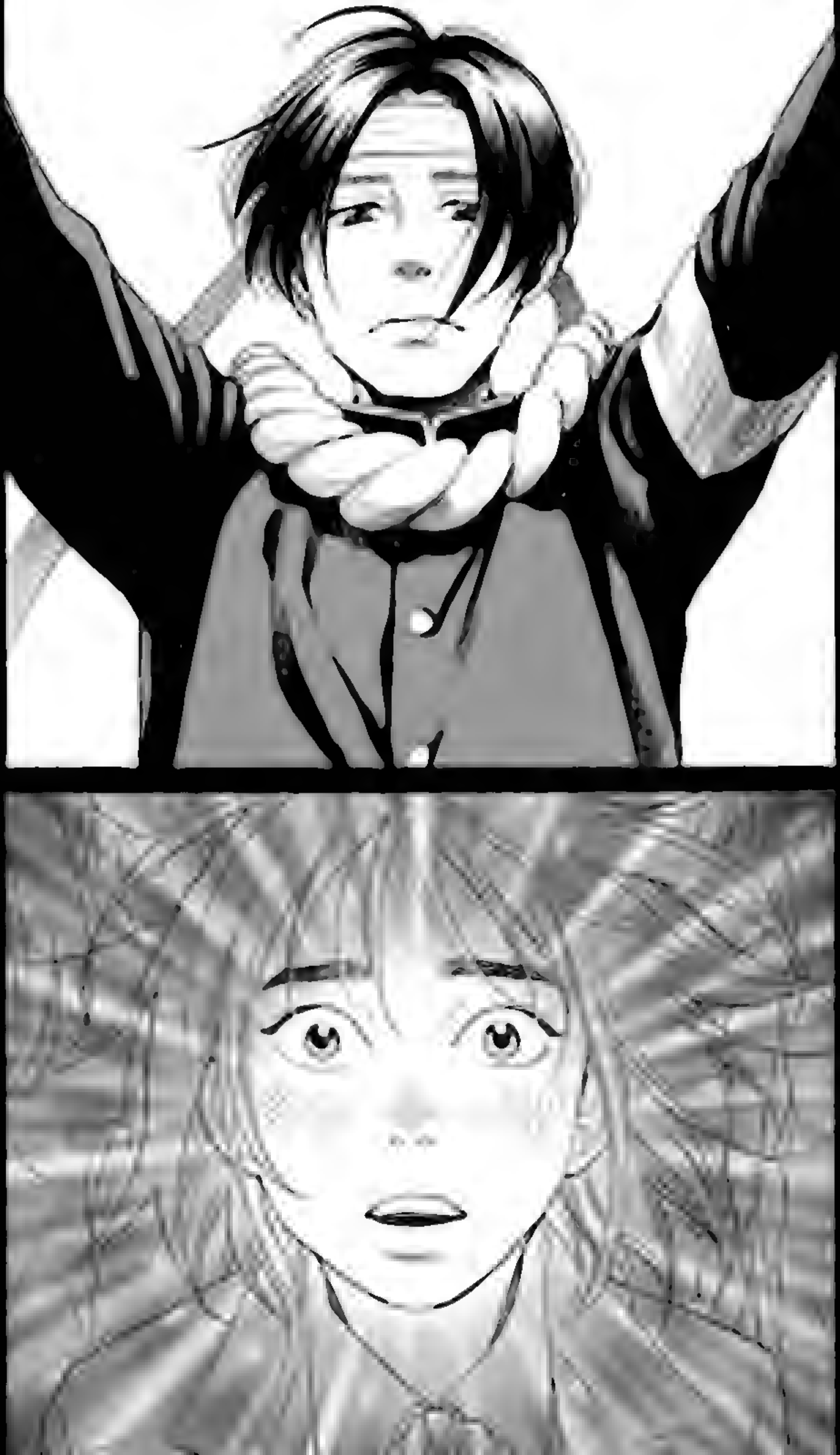
SOMETHING I'D NEVER EXPECT OF MYSELF.

I'D MADE UP MY MIND BEFORE I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.

MINAMI HIGH SCHOO

THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED.

I ENCOUNT-ERED THE OUENDAN FOR THE FIRST TIME.



SHUF !!!

KI

DADUM

UGH, WITH THOSE DESIGNER CLOTHES, THAT GUY DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HE BELONGS IN THE OUENDAN.

SHUT UP AND WATCH.

SHH!

I DON'T GET IT.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WATCH THE FORMER CAPTAINS CHEER TOGETHER?

WATCH CLOSELY!

YOU GUYS ...

DA DUM♪

SHIT YAH!

THEY'RE SO FAST!

WE'VE NEVER DONE IT AT THAT SPEED!

FUCK

DA DUM DA

TAK TAK

DUM TAKKA TAK

DUM TAKKA TAK

DUM TAKKA TAK

DUM TAKKA TAK

DUM

KANAN!

KANAN!

GO! GO!

DADUM

TAK TAK

BUUUU
ほか…

UHHH
…ん…

DAAAMN
…

TH-

THAT WAS SO COOL!

THEY'RE ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL.

WOW.

…

(PANT)

(PANT)

SEEING THAT,

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE CAPTAIN USAMI WANT TO JOIN THE OUENDAN.

SUMMER-HIKO IS AMAZING.

YOU GUYS!

A BUNCH OF THIRD-YEARS SHOULD NOT BE THIS SLOW!

GET SERI-OUS!

THIS IS AN EMBAR-RASSMENT TO THE OUENDAN!

MAE-SAN.

KANAN'S OUENDAN HAS BEEN IN DECLINE SINCE YOU WERE CAPTAIN.

YOU DO REAL-IZE THAT, DON'T YOU?

THAT'S WHY WE LOST SO MANY MEMBERS IN THE FIRST PLACE. YOU OUGHT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT.

AND MAE-SAN,

YOU'RE STILL A VIRGIN, AREN'T YOU?

YOU'VE ALWAYS JACKED OFF TOO MUCH. THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE ANY LOWER BODY STRENGTH.

OSU, I AM.

HURGH

YOU HAVEN'T MADE A BIT OF PROGRESS.

YOU'RE A VIRGIN, AREN'T YOU?

NOW, USAMI.

OSU!

OSU!

YOU WOULDN'T BE STUCK AS A VIRGIN, THEN.

OSU!

THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS CHEER THEM ON BY OFFERING THEM YOUR VIRGINITY IF THEY WIN A GAME.

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE A LOT OF MALE VIRGINS AROUND HERE.

WHAT'S WITH THE SCOWL? ARE YOU ON YOUR PERIOD?

OSU!

I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER FIND SOMEONE WORSE THAN HIRO-KUN.

HEY.

SHE COULD SUE. THAT IS LITERAL SEXUAL HARASS-MENT.

OH MY GOD.

I can't stand this.

HEY, BLONDIE.

YES?

TURN

SHE'D HAVE HEAD-BUTTED ANYONE ELSE BY NOW!

CAPTAIN...

WHY WON'T YOU TELL HIM OFF?

THAT'S NO WAY TO ACT IF YOU WANT TO BE CAPTAIN, YOU DICK CHEESE-LICKING VIRGIN.

I DON'T CARE.

TWITCH

YOU ARE ONLY TO ANSWER WITH "OSU." THAT'S HOW WE DO THINGS HERE.

TWITCH

SHUT YOUR MOUTH, VIRGIN.

YOU'RE JUST SOME STUCK-UP HIPSTER WHO THINKS HE'S HOT STUFF 'CAUSE HE'S IN COLLEGE. YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THAT.

FU

...

NO...

IMA-MURA...

YOU *ARE* A VIRGIN, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

SUMMER-HIIKO, I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

BWA HA HA HA HA HA!!

OSU...

ARE YOU A VIR-GIN?

SO, IMA-MURA-KUN.

YOU HAVE THE FLOOR!

HUH?!

IMA-MURA.

ANSWER CAPTAIN KONDO'S QUESTION.

...

HHUUU GGRRKK...

...

Again!!

アゲイン!!

115. DON'T LOSE HOPE!



WAAH

HOORAY!

WAAH

WAAH

HOORAY!

MI-NA-MI!

DUM

DUM

DA DUM

KICK

YELL LOUDER, EVERY-ONE!

WE CAN STILL TURN THIS GAME AROUND!

R

O

7

CHATTER

CHATTER

FIGURES. THE OUENDAN IS NO PLACE FOR A GIRL.

I KNOW THEY'RE SHORT ON PEOPLE, BUT SOMETHING MUST BE REALLY WRONG IF THEY LET HER IN.

CHATTER

WHOA, FOR REAL?

...

HERE'S OUR CHANCE!!

UHBWAAAA

THAT GIRL FROM THE OUENDAN PASSED OUT!

HMM?

TWEN-TY-TWO.

TWEN-TY-ONE.

TWEN-TY.

DONE ALREADY, USAMI? ARE YOU ON YOUR PERIOD?

N-NO, SIR.

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

HUH?

I'M NOT QUIT-TING ...

NO ...

A VIRGIN JUST CAN'T CUT IT, HUH? ARE YOU READY TO QUIT THE OUENDAN?

THIR-
TY.

THIR-
TY-
ONE.

(DRIP)

THIRTY-
TWO...
WAIT.
IMAMURA,
YOU'RE
NOT
SAYING
ANYTHING.

...

COME
ON. SAY
SOME-
THING,
VIRGIN.

A
VIRGIN
JUST
CAN'T
CUT IT,
HUH?

CAN'T
YOU
CAN'T,
CAN
YOU?

YOU
DO
IT?

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

COME
ON,
YOU
LITTLE
VIR-
GIN!

CLASP

...

SHUT UP! YOU JUST KEEP GOING ON AND ON ABOUT VIRGINS!

!?!

FWIP

OH, MY! ARE YOU *NOT* A VIRGIN?

TUUUUG

GIMME A SMILE!

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE OUENDAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY.

JUST QUIT.

I HATE NEGATIVE PEOPLE.

I JUST THINK YOU'RE AN ASSHOLE!

I'M NOT A NEGATIVE PERSON!

FWISH

LISAMI REALLY HASN'T TAUGHT YOU ANYTHING, HAS SHE?

THERE'S ONLY ONE ACCEPTABLE ANSWER, IMAMURA.

"OSU."

CLENCH

SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH THIS!

IMA-MURA.

DO AS CAPTAIN KONDO TELLS YOU TO.

HRRRGH

VIR-GINS!

I'M NOT JUST TRYING TO MAKE YOU SUFFER OR HAZE YOU OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

LIS-TEN.

YOU CAN DO IT!

YOU CAN DO IT!

NUMBER ONE!

VIRGINS' FIGHT SONG...

IF YOU GET INTO THE HABIT OF THINKING OF YOURSELF AS A LOSER, YOU'LL NEVER STOP LOSING.

WHO WANTS TO BE LED BY SOME NEGATIVE GUY WHO ASSUMES WE'RE DOOMED FROM THE START?

GO TEAM! VIR-GINS!!

GO TEAM!

NO ONE COULD KEEP IT UP WITHOUT A POSITIVE, FUN ATTITUDE.

CHEER-ING THE WAY WE DO ISN'T EASY.

UH-GOT!

SO QUIT SLACKING OFF, *VIRGIN.*

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO STOP ACTING LIKE SUCH A *VIRGIN.*

AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO THINK YOU ONLY JOINED THE OUENDAN 'CAUSE YOU HAD A CRUSH ON USAMI, NOW WOULD YOU?

YOU BETTER NOT DAMAGE THE *CHASTE REPUTATION* OF YOUR LADY CAPTAIN, *CAPTAIN VIRGIN.*

VIRGINS! HOORAY! HOORAY! VIRGINS!

YOU WORTHLESS *VIRGIN.*

HOORAY! HOORAY!

DID YOU JOIN THE OUENDAN SO GIRLS WOULD LIKE YOU, *VIRGIN?*

BREAK TIME

BWUUUH

PRACTICE IS A LOT HARDER ALL OF A SUDDEN.

AND HE'S BEEN ESPECIALLY HARSH ON IMAMURA-KUN.

SIGH...

DAMN IT.

DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS, IMAMURA.

THIS IS HARD.

I'M A GIRL. WHY DO I HAVE TO DO ALL THE SAME STUFF AS THE BOYS?

CLENCH

!!

YOU WANT TO BE CAPTAIN, RIGHT?

UNH.....

...

...

I'LL KILL YOU

I'LL KILL YOU

I'LL KILL YOU

CAPTAIN KONDO IS RIGHT.

HE'S NOT HALF AS HARSH AS THE CROWDS WILL BE.

HE'S MAKING A FOOL OUT OF ME,

AND YOU'RE NOT-

CAPTAIN, WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?

IT'S ABOUT PUSHING YOURSELF AS HARD AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

IT'S NOT JUST A MATTER OF DOING YOUR BEST.

NO ONE WANTS TO BE CHEERED ON BY AN OUENDAN WHOSE HEARTS AREN'T IN IT.

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE CAPABLE OF THAT, IMAMURA?

AAAGH...
I'M SO SORE.
ME TOO.
OSU!
COME ON.
BREAK TIME IS OVER. BACK TO PRACTICE.
P3-ZX
AND HERE I THOUGHT ...
...SHE HAD SOME HOPE IN ME.

I MISSED PRACTICE JUST SITTING HERE!

DAMN IT!

NIGHTTIME..

GASP

SOME CAPTAIN YOU ARE.

GOD. WHAT A LOSER.

I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU. I AM MURA.

HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT!!

THAT'S A VIRGIN FOR YOU!

BWA HA HA HA

THEY MUST BE SAYING ALL KINDS OF AWFUL THINGS ABOUT ME!

I CAN SEE IT NOW.

EVERYONE'S PROBABLY LEFT BY NOW.

IT'S SO LATE.

GASP

OH, GOD!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS

IMAMURA JUST ISN'T MOTIVATED AT ALL. YOU CAN'T TRUST YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS.

DO YOU REALLY THINK IMAMURA KNOWS THE FUTURE?

USAMI.



116. THE FRIEND OF MY FRIEND IS A STRANGER

I MEAN, HE SAYS HE KNOWS THE FUTURE. DON'T YOU SEE ANYTHING OFF ABOUT THAT?

REALLY, USAMI, I WAS SURPRISED WHEN YOU CALLED ME, BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOUR CANDIDATE FOR CAPTAIN WAS GOING TO BE LIKE *THAT*.

I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE HE WAS DREAMING ...

IMAMURA SAYS HE CAME FROM THREE YEARS IN THE FUTURE, WHEN THE OUENDAN FELL APART!

IT'S A DO-OVER.

DAN!

HE'S DOING THINGS OVER AGAIN!

HE SAYS HE'S DOING THINGS OVER AND THAT HE WANTS TO BE CAPTAIN.

AND I WANT TO BELIEVE HIM.

BUT ...

IMAMURA'S NOT A LIAR.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING SUMMERHIKO ABOUT MY DO-OVER, DAMN IT?!

JUST, I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, USAMI. YOU'RE TAKING THAT STORY SO SERIOUSLY.

YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW.

THAT GUY- IMA-MURA?

HE'S *GOT* TO BE LYING ABOUT THIS WHOLE DO-OVER THING.

WELL, THAT'S NICE! IF YOU'RE GOING TO THROW YOUR VIRGINITY AWAY, YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO IT WITH A GUY LIKE HIM.

SOME RANDOM GUY YOU MEET IN COLLEGE WOULD BE FINE, TOO, OF COURSE.

WANT ME TO INVITE YOU TO A SINGLES' MIXER SOON?

ARE YOU GOING AFTER IMAMURA NOW BECAUSE THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT WITH CHAN-KUMA OR KABOKOKU'S CAPTAIN?

OH, GOD, USAMI. REALLY?

THWUMP

YOU'VE GOT YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS.

HUP

HOWEVER OLD-SCHOOL ONE MAY LOOK ON THE OUTSIDE, MOST OUENDAN AREN'T ANY BETTER THAN A BOYS' LOCKER ROOM.

BUT ...

I ASKED YOU TO COME HERE SO I COULD SHOW IMAMURA WHAT A MAN'S OUENDAN IS LIKE.

IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT YOUR ONLY SKILL?

YOU SEEMED SO COOL WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU AT MY ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

STOP SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT! I EXPECTED BETTER OF YOU!

GRAAAH

AAAA

GAAAH

I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP, USAMI.

I REALLY AM.

OH, I GET IT.

WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING? GAAAH!

WHOA...

SHUDDER

WHOOOA!

THIS SENSE OF HATRED ...

OH, NO!

GAAAH!

WOBBLE

YOU CAME BACK!

IMA-MURA!

SHUMP

THAT VOICE ...

HUH?

GAAAH!

FLINCH

WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, IMA-MURA?

FUCK

BADUMP

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

I HEARD YOU TALK-ING.

CLENCH

...

BUT HE AND CAPTAIN MAEDA ARE THE ONLY ONES I'VE TOLD!

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!

I TOLD HIM ABOUT YOUR DO-OVER!

I'M SORRY, IMA-MURA!

BOW

CAPTAIN! DO YOU ACTUALLY LIKE SUMMER-HIKO?

WHY ARE YOU TWO ACTING SO CLOSE? IT'S CREEPY!

...

I THINK HE'LL UNDERSTAND IF WE EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO HIM.

I'M NOT MAD!

AWW, IS HE MAD?

THAT PART CAME AS A SHOCK, TOO, BUT NO.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO TEST YOU.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN THESE HAZY FEELINGS NAGGING AT THE BACK OF MY MIND...

NO...

WHAT IS THIS?

IT'S SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST BEING ANNOYED AT PEOPLE WITH HAPPIER LIVES THAN MINE.

BAM

YOURS TRULY WILL FOOT THE BILL, SO EAT UP, IMAMURA.

OH, MY.

STILL MAD, HUH?

I GET IT.

...

OH, YEAH.

POPS!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

I ALWAYS TOOK PEOPLE TO THIS RAMEN SHOP WHEN THEY STARTED TALKING ABOUT QUITTING THE OUENDAN.

HEY,

ISN'T IT NICE GOING OUT TO EAT WITH YOUR SENPAI LIKE THIS?

YOU KNOW?

IT REALLY HELPS DEEPEN YOUR BONDS.

USAMI-CHAN ALWAYS USED TO CRY INTO HER RAMEN BACK THEN.

HEY, POPS!

WOULD YOU KNOCK IT OFF?

DO YOU GO OUT FOR RAMEN A LOT, IMAMURA?

NO.

DO YOU LIKE RAMEN?

IT'S OKAY.

OH! WELL, EAT YOUR FILL.

THE GYOZA ARE GOOD, TOO!

HEY, MAE! WASN'T IT FUNNY WHEN SASAKI ATE THOSE GYOZA?

AH HA HA HA

BWA HA HA HA HA

OH, YOU MEAN THAT ONE TIME?

CHATTER

CHATTER

HA

HA

THAT WAS AWFU

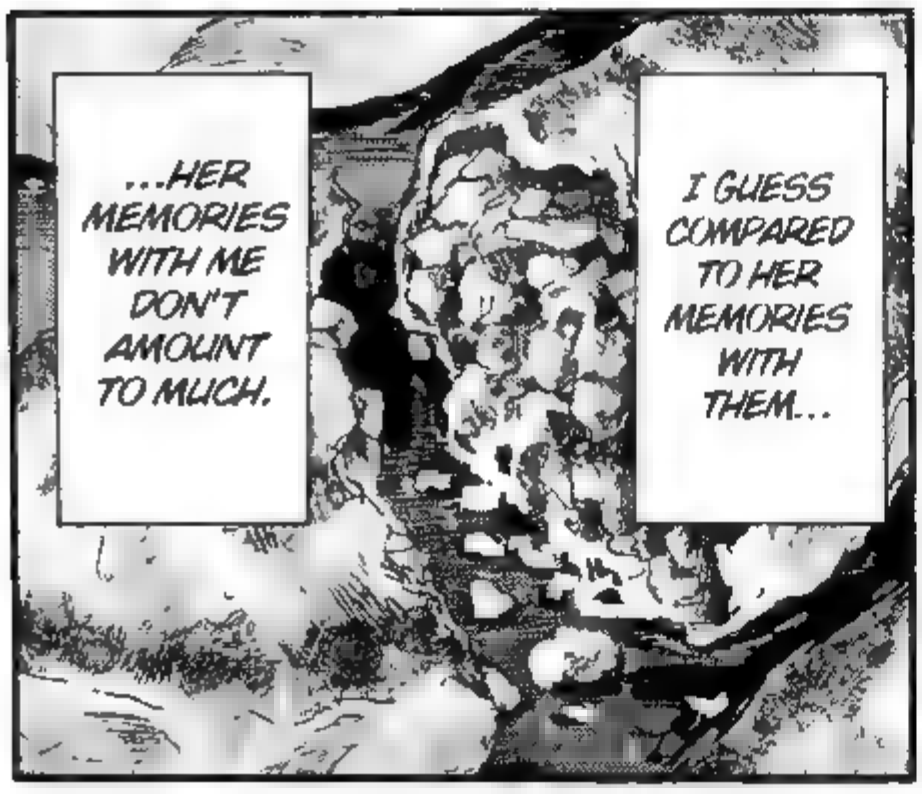
CHATTER

SHUNK

WHOEVER YOU GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT MAY BE SENPAI TO CAPTAIN USAMI...

...BUT THEY'RE JUST STRANGERS TO ME, SO I REALLY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THIS CONVER-SATION.







YOU'RE JEALOUS, AREN'T YOU?

OH, IMA-MURA.

WHAM!!

JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE HOW I HAVE US CHEER.

HE PISSES ME OFF!

RAMEN!

DELICI

WOW!
BOILED EGGS
ALL YOU CAN EAT

IT'LL BE WAY MORE FUN THAN ANYTHING YOU EVER DID.

Again!!

アゲイン!!

Again!!

アゲイン!!



117. QUALIFYING FOR CAPTAIN

CUT THE ATTI-TUDE!

WE'RE ALL HERE FOR YOUR SAKE, IMAMURA!

SHE'S RIGHT.

THE OUENDAN IS HARSH, BUT IT'S NOT MERCI-LESS.

USAMI HAS ASKED US TO HELP YOU OUT AS ALUMNI.

I MEAN, YOU DO WANT TO BE CAPTAIN, DON'T YOU?

HOPE

HOPE

HOPE

HOPE

HOPE

HOPE

HOPE

HOPE

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TEAM PLAYER ACT AND SHOVE IT!

FWISH

I CAN FIGURE IT OUT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

HA HA HA HA HA! JUST KEEP IN MIND YOU'RE PAYING FOR ANY DAMAGE.

SORRY FOR THE FUSS, POPS.

SHUT UP AND EAT.

THWUNK

HEY, IMA-MURA!

IMA-MURA.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, SKIPPING PRACTICE YESTER-DAY? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED ME TO JOIN THE OUENDAN!

CAP-TAIN IMA-MURA!

HUUUH

HEY... WE'D JUST LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP.

NO ANS-WER? GOD.

HUSH...

WHY SIT THERE BEING GLOOMY ALL ON YOUR OWN?

IMAMURA-KUN, IF YOU WANT TO BE CAPTAIN,

THEN FIRST, YOU NEED TO LEARN TO TRUST US AS YOUR TEAMMATES.

YOU WOULDN'T GET IT EVEN IF I DID EXPLAIN, SO I'LL JUST DEAL WITH IT MYSELF!

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

FWISH

AAAGH, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!


がばっ
SHWUMP


FWISH


BYE.
YOU BETTER SHOW UP TODAY!
YOU THINK I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?!


YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CAPTAIN, DO YOU?
YOU REALLY SUCK AT LETTING PEOPLE CHEER YOU ON.
WOW.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE HOW I DO THINGS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY BEING CAPTAIN, DUMBASS!

OF COURSE I DON'T HAVE ANY LEADERSHIP SKILLS! I SPENT MY ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER ALONE!

BUT I CAN'T TELL ANYONE THAT.

WHAT'S REALLY BUGGING ME ARE THOSE TWO.

PHOOO

WAIT,

YES.

THEY WANT US TO CHEER AT THE KABOSU CITY MARATHON?

SOME KANAN ALUMNI ARE ON THE EXECUTIVE TEAM, AND WHEN I TOLD THEM WHAT I WAS WORKING ON WITH YOU GUYS, THEY INVITED US TO CHEER THERE.

RIGHT.

IT'LL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN CHEERING FOR A SCHOOL TEAM, SINCE WE'LL BE CHEERING FOR EVERYONE IN THE RACE.

THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST TIME CHEERING AT A MARATHON. HOW SHOULD WE GO ABOUT IT?

KABOSU CITY MARATHON START

THEY'LL HAVE TO RUN A LONG WAY FROM START TO FINISH.

WE'LL SPLIT UP INTO GROUPS AND TRY TO GENERATE EXCITEMENT FROM THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG THE WAY.

THIS WILL BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW PEOPLE WHAT THE KABOSU MINAMI OUENDAN IS ALL ABOUT.

AND HOPEFULLY, IT WILL DO US A LOT OF GOOD.

HUUUSH!~

OH.

YEAH?

SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN.

NOW,

IMA-MURA.

HOW YOU DO AT THIS MARATHON WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE FIT TO BE CAPTAIN.

WHAT?

RE-MEMBER WHAT YOU SAID YESTER-DAY?

JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE HOW I HAVE US CHEER

YEAH..

SO WHAT?

THAT THE WAY YOU HAVE US CHEER WILL BE MORE FUN THAN ANYTHING I EVER DID?

WELL, ON THAT NOTE, I'VE ASSIGNED EVERYONE TO A GROUP!

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

HOGS

HOTTIES

DUMMIES

GIRLS

BAM

THESE CATEGORIES SEEM KIND OF FORCED!

WH-

WHAT THE HELL?

EXCUSE ME?!

THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE BETTER SUITED FOR THE ROLE OF CAPTAIN THAN IMAMURA, AFTER ALL.

I'D LIKE EACH OF YOU TO WORK WITH YOUR GROUPS TO SHOW OFF WHAT MAKES YOUR WAY OF CHEERING DIFFERENT FROM THE REST.

ME NEI-THER.

I MEAN, I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO BE CAPTAIN.

UHH ..

AND WE'VE NEVER HAD A FORMER SOCCER PLAYER IN THE OUENDAN BEFORE.

HE REALLY STANDS OUT FROM THE CROWD.

HIRO'S PERSONALITY COULD USE SOME WORK, BUT HE'S GOOD WHERE IT MATTERS.

KNOWING SPORTS REALLY CARRIES OVER.

I HEAR YOU.

HA HA HA HA, RIGHT.

RIGHT, OKA?

THE THREE OF US CHEERING. BEAUTIFUL, NO?

PICTURE IT.

GLOMP

...

TA-WARA-KUN!

HE STEREOTYPED YOU AS A FAT KID! HOW COULD HE, RIGHT?

THEY GOT HIRO-KUN EXCITED FOR THIS...

THAT'S NOT HOW HE REACTED TO ME!

I BET I'D HAVE TO FIGHT THEM OFF WITH A STICK IF I WERE CAPTAIN.

THE GIRLS WILL BE ALL OVER ME.

CHILL OUT! DON'T HYPE ME TOO MUCH, YOU GUYS.

HEH HEH

I'M USED TO COMPE-TITION.

I'VE ALWAYS HATED LOSING.

EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD ACTOR,

THIS KIND OF THING REALLY GETS ME GOING.

AC-TUAL-LY ...

RUMBLE

OH,

I SEE...

FUJIEDA'S CUTE, TOO, SO I'M SURE YOU GUYS WILL BE A HIT AT THE MARA-THON.

DON'T YOU WANT TO TRAIN SOMEONE TO CARRY ON YOUR LEGACY?

RIGHT NOW, HAVING A FEMALE CAPTAIN IS THE KANAN OUENDAN'S MAIN SELLING POINT.

HUH?

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU CHEER IN A GIRLS-ONLY OUENDAN.

AND LISAMI,

I-I'M GRIN

YOU'D PREFER A GIRL TO TAKE YOUR PLACE?

STAGGER

CAP-TAIN ...

SOUND

YEAH!

HEY, LET'S INVITE REO-CHAN TO JOIN US!

W-WELL, I GUESS IT WOULDN'T HURT TO TRY.

OUENDAN

SOUND

CATCH!!

SAAA

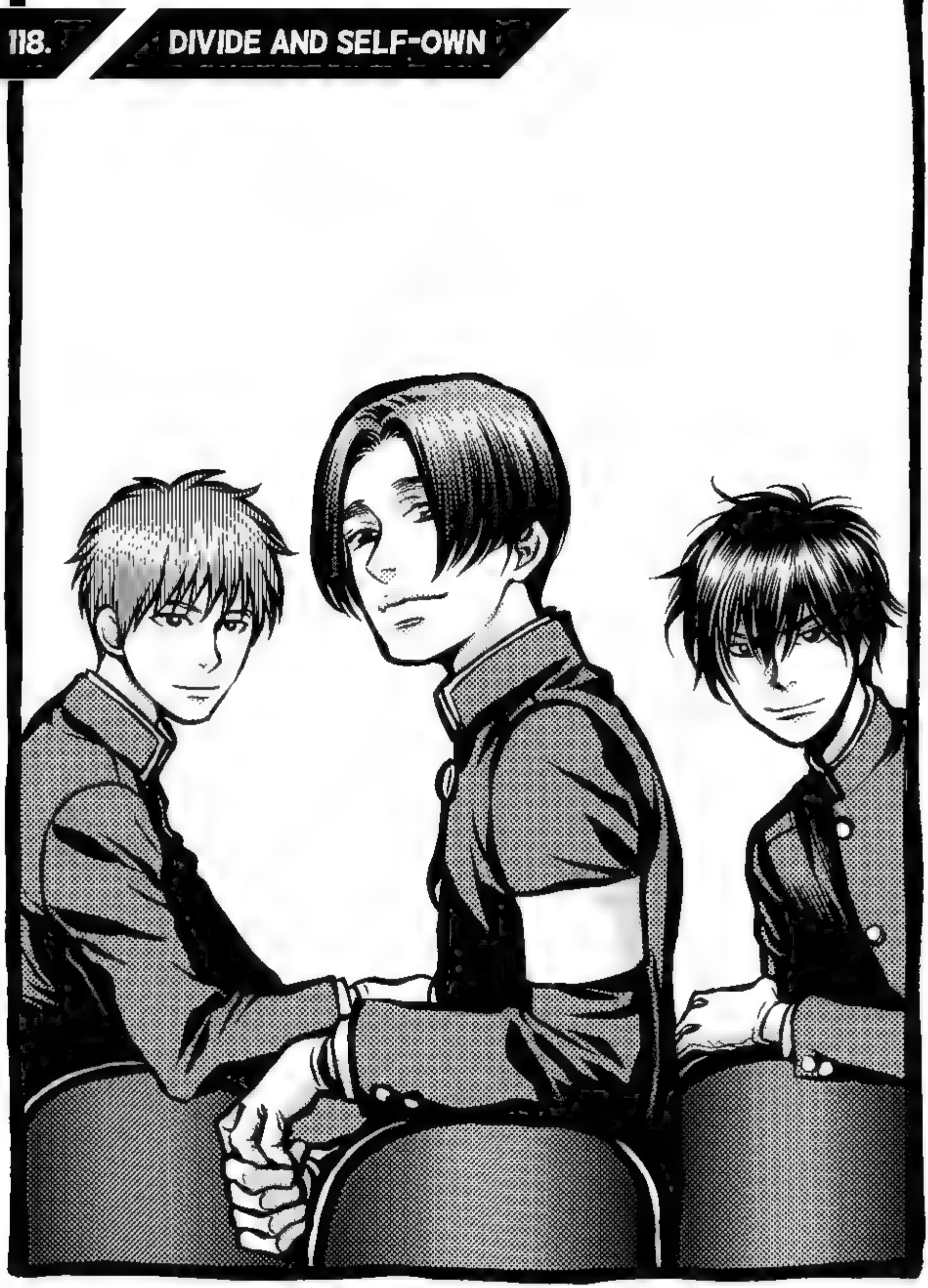
THEN YOU'LL BE OUR OFFICIAL CAPTAIN, IMAMURA-KUN.

SO, WE JUST HAVE TO WIN OVER THE CROWD AT THIS MARATHON.

OR SHOULD I SAY *CAPTAIN* IMAMURA?

ANYWAY, WE'RE A TEAM NOW!

118. DIVIDE AND SELF-OWN



HAVEN'T YOU GUYS LEARNED ANYTHING ALL YEAR?

THIS IS NOT OKAY! YOU'RE NOT CONCEN-TRATING AT ALL.

ONE! TWO!

THREE! FOUR!

STOP! STOP!

CLAP CLAP CLAP

KANAN

US THIRD-YEARS CAN'T WITHDRAW WITH THE CLUB IN THIS STATE.

OR DO YOU WANT KANAN'S CHEER-LEADING CLUB TO GET WORSE AND WORSE?

BLUUSH

GLARE

I KNOW YOU FOUND YOURSELF A BOYFRIEND, BUT MAYBE YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE TOO EXCITED.

I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE CUT OUT TO BE CAPTAIN IF A BOY CAN RUIN YOUR FOCUS LIKE THIS.

YES! I'M SORRY. I'LL TRY TO DO BETTER.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE READY TO BE THE NEXT CAPTAIN?

FWISH

YES?

HEY, ITO-SAN!

GRAAH GRAAH

HEY, CHEER-LEAD-ERS. DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

HUH?!

HI.

LONG TIME NO SEE, ABE-CHAN.

IF YOU CAN'T TELL, I'M A LITTLE BUSY OVER-

TURN

YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL.

C-

BADUMP

CAP-TAIN NATSU-HIKO KONDO?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HE'S AN ALUMNI. I THINK HE WAS TWO YEARS AHEAD OF CAPTAIN ABE.

WHO'S HE? THERE AREN'T ANY GUYS THAT HOT IN THE OUENDAN.

I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LOOK SO HAPPY...

MMMM

MMMM

YOU ALWAYS WERE A STEP AHEAD OF THE REST, EVEN AS A FIRST-YEAR.

SO, YOU'RE CAPTAIN OF THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB NOW, HUH?

OH, THE OUENDAN JUST NEEDED A BIT OF HELP.

OH MY GOD! YOU THINK SO?

ABSO-LUTELY!

WE'D LIKE TO USE THE CENTRAL COURTYARD TO PRACTICE, AS WELL. WOULD THAT BE ALL RIGHT?

HIRO!

LET HIM DO HIS THING. HE DOESN'T MEAN ANY-THING BY IT.

SUMMER-HIKO'S A CREEP.

YEAH, THAT MAKES IT EVEN WORSE.

SQUEEE

ALL THE GUYS AT MY SCHOOL PLAN ON BECOMING DOCTORS.

SO, LET'S TRY TO GET ALONG.

TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE, I CAN THROW A PARTY FOR EVERYONE LATER.

THANKS.

HOORAY!
HOORAY!
HOORAY!
LET'S GOOO!
GO TEAM!
YEAH!
KANAN
KANAN
CLENCH
HIRO!
FWISH
YOU AREN'T FOCUS-ING!
ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?
...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE BOYS THAT HOT IN THE QUENDAN.
GET A PIC-TURE!

HE'S MORE SINCERE THAN USUAL.

WOW ...

I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!

OSU!

HOORAY!

HOORAY!

HOORAY!

HAFFSSSH!

SERVES YOU RIGHT, SUMMER-HIKO. *HA HA HA HA!*

WHATEVER. HE JUST WANTS TO LOOK GOOD IN FRONT OF GIRLS, ANYWAY.

THAT PIECE OF SHIT'S MOTIVATION WON'T LAST LONG.

FUCK!

BUT ME, YOU JUST IGNORE?

DAMN IT, HIRO-KUN! SO YOU'LL LISTEN TO HIM,

HUH?

PLEEEASE? YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE, REO-CHAN!

IT'S ONLY FOR THIS ONE MARA-THON!

PLEASE RECON-SIDER!

YOU WANT ME TO TEMPO-RARILY JOIN THE OUEN-DAN?!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO WORK!

I'LL BE NERVOUS IF IT'S JUST ME AND CAPTAIN USAMI. YOU SHOULD JOIN US!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PLAY THE DRUMS FOR US.

NICE! WE'LL BE SURE TO CHEER YOU ON!

HEEEY!

YOU'RE JOINING THE OUEN-DAN, REO-CHAN?

WHAT'S THIS I HEAR?

HMM...

STAY OUT OF MY WAY. YOU'D ONLY HOLD ME BACK.

HEH HEH HEH... THAT'S RIGHT, YOU BITCHES.

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO MEET A MAN'S CHEERING WITH THOSE SLUMBER PARTY SQUEALS.

SQUEEEEE

THOSE BLAZERS ARE SO BORING! LET'S MAKE OUR OWN OUTFITS!

THAT SOUNDS COOL!

A GIRLS-ONLY OUEN-DAN?

SQUEE

SQUEE

SQUEE

WHO CARES ABOUT A BUNCH OF BOYS CHEERING? WE'VE GOT TO SHOW THEM UP! ★

HUH? HUH?

I NEVER SAID I WOULD DO IT...

FUCK

'COURSE, THAT'S JUST MY OPINION.

I DON'T RECOM-MEND BECOMING CAPTAIN.

WELL, YOU KNOW.

ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT THE COLLEGE OUENDAN HELPING YOU GET A JOB OR A GIRLFRIEND IS A BUNCH OF LIES.

NOM Nom

NO MATTER HOW MUCH WORK YOU PUT INTO THE OUENDAN, IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD IN THE REAL WORLD.

YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT TAKING ANYTHING SUMMERHIKO SAYS TOO SERIOUSLY.

YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT TOO ATTACHED ANYWAY, ARE YOU, TAWARA-KUN?

DON'T TAKE HIM TOO SERIOUS-LY.

TA-WARA.

I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT-

WELLL ...

BESIDES, YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO ABANDON THE OUENDAN.

I'M SURPRISED YOU HAD THE NERVE TO COME BACK.

YOU MAY BE STRONG AND ATHLETIC, BUT WHERE HAS IT GOTTEN YOU?

OH, PLEASE, RAKKI SUGA.

MUNCH MUNCH

HE'S THE TYPE WHO GETS READY TO LOSE BEFORE THE FIGHT EVEN STARTS.

HE LIKES TO CRUSH PEOPLE'S PRIDE, TOO, SO IT WON'T BOTHER HIM. WATCH OUT.

SLURRRP...

MAE-SAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.

HEY, I HELP OUT AT MY PARENTS' SHOP. YOU'RE SET TO INHERIT YOUR FOLKS' PLACE, TOO, AREN'T YOU, DUMPLING BOY?

I'M NOT LIKE YOU, MAE-SAN! I'M GOING TO COLLEGE!

CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER

I WON'T TAKE IT EASY ON YOU JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE AN ALUMNI, YOU SLACKER!

YOU WANNA FIGHT?

WHAT?

THUD

WHAM

WOULD YOU QUIT GOING ON ABOUT STUFF THAT DOESN'T MATTER?

NOTE: *KIDS RETURN* IS A 1996 JAPANESE FILM ABOUT TWO HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS WHO TRY TO FIND DIRECTION AND MEANING IN THEIR LIVES—ONE BY BECOMING A YAKUZA LIEUTENANT AND THE OTHER BY BECOMING A BOXER.

EXCUSE ME?

NEITHER ARE UNPOPULAR ACTORS WITH BIG MOUTHS, SORT OF LIKE YOU, SUGA-SENPAI.

FUCK

WHAT?

THEY'RE NOT UNCOMMON.

PEOPLE WHO WERE LIKE THAT OLD BOXER IN *KIDS RETURN* WHO SETS THE MAIN CHARACTERS ON THE WRONG PATH.

I'M USED TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU, MAEDA-SENPAI. I MET A LOT OF THEM WHEN I WAS A CHILD ACTOR.

FU

O-

OKAY.

SLURP SLURP

BUT WHY DON'T WE JUST TRY TO HAVE AS MUCH FUN AS WE CAN DOING THIS MARATHON?

I'M NOT ASKING YOU GUYS TO PRETEND EVERY-THING'S PEACHY.

I SEE.

HEH HEH HEH HEH ...

...SO, TAWARA-KUN AND HIS TEAM SEEM TO BE HAVING SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

HA HA HA HA HA

SERVES THEM RIGHT!

NO OTHER TEAM HAS A CHANCE!

I LET MYSELF BECOME SO ARROGANT AND RESENTFUL WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING!

NO, NO, NO! WHAT AM I SAYING? IF THE INTERNET HAS TAUGHT ME ANYTHING, IT'S NOT TO BE THE KIND OF SHALLOW JERK WHO GETS OFF BY LOOKING DOWN ON OTHER PEOPLE!

GASP

HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO BE CAPTAIN.

AND EVERY-BODY HATES ME...

HE SPLIT THE OUENDAN UP INTO TEAMS TO MAKE US FIGHT EACH OTHER. IT'S DIVIDE AND CONQUER.

THIS IS SUMMER-HIKO'S FAULT.

DAMN IT...

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE THAT KIND OF GUY!

IT'S NO SUR-PRISE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CAPTAIN IMA-MURA!

I KNEW IT.

I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE CAPTAIN.

JUST LISTEN TO ME COM-PLAIN-ING.

THERE'S NO WAY.

BUT, IMA-MURA-KUN.

YOU *ARE* CUT OUT TO BE CAPTAIN.

YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO BE CAPTAIN?

CHAN-KUMA ...

WITHOUT CAPTAIN USAMI, I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OUENDAN.

THIS SITUATION DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL. I'M INDIFFER-1ENT.

I NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN PERFORM A POWERFUL MELODY.

BUT IT'S BORING PLAYING ALONE.

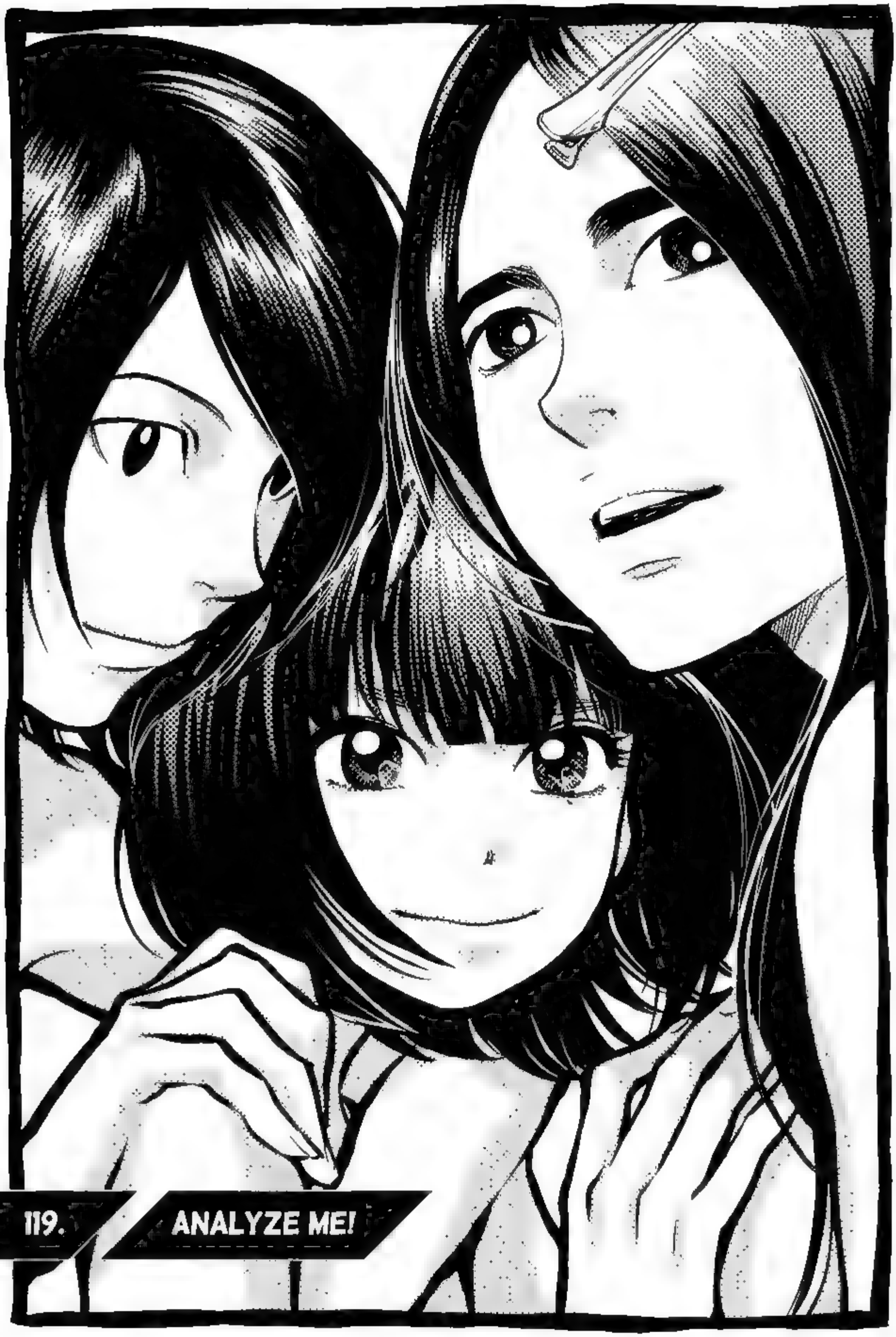
I'M A DRUMMER.

Again!!

アゲイン!!

Again!!

アゲイン!!



119. ANALYZE ME!

WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEEZE
PANT
WOULD THAT BE ALL RIGHT?
I NEED A BREAK.
WAIT! CAPTAIN ...
AGAIN? DON'T STOP, FUJIEDA. TRY WALKING, AT LEAST.
YOU DOING OKAY, AKI-CHAN?
PANT
PANT
PANT
WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEZE
WAIT UP A SECOND ...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
W-

I GUESS BEING IN THE OLIENDAN MAKES A BIG DIFFER-ENCE.

I KNOW. I SEE IT, TOO.

SHE HAS SO MUCH ENDURANCE.

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'D BE WEAK.

HUH?

THAT'S A FIRST. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD I'M A SLUGGISH, HALF-ASSED WIMP.

YOU THINK I HAVE ENDUR-ANCE?

PLEASE, TRY TO HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE IN YOUR-SELF.

YOU'RE REALLY COOL, USAMI-SAN. YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, BUT NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK YOUR MIND.

COMPARED TO OTHER GIRLS, YOU'RE AMAZING, CAPTAIN.

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE SUR-ROUNDED BY GUYS.

WHEN YOU REORGANIZE A TEAM,

IT SHIFTS EVERYONE'S ROLES AND THE WAY THEY SEE EACH OTHER.

OUENDAN

THAT'S WHAT WILL MAKE YOU A CAPTAIN.

YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST TEAM YOU CAN OUT OF THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE.

I'M TOO MUCH OF A NICE GUY TO BE CAPTAIN. I ALWAYS TAKE IT EASY, AND NOTHING GETS UNDER MY SKIN. EVERYONE WOULD JUST RESENT ME, AND THE TEAM WOULD BE DESTROYED.

UH, OKAY ... RIGHT.

IT'S A GOOD WAY TO QUICKLY FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU'RE LACKING.

IT'S CRITICAL THAT YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME WORRYING AND GETTING FRUSTRATED ABOUT IT!

I DON'T GET IT. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

THE BEST TEAM I CAN, HUH?

BUT YOU, IMA-MURA-KUN...

THAT'S THE NUMBER ONE MUST-HAVE TRAIT FOR AN OUENDAN CAPTAIN.

YOU'RE SENSITIVE, YET QUICK TO GET BACK ON YOUR FEET.

SO INSTEAD, I RAN AND HID.

I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO PLAY A ROLE.

I SPENT ALL OF HIGH SCHOOL HIDING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S SHADOWS.

MEAN-IE!

I'M KIND OF UNCOMFORT-ABLE GETTING A PEP TALK FROM YOU, CHAN-KUMA...

I NEVER USED TO KNOW WHAT THAT WAS LIKE, BUT I THINK I'VE FIGURED IT OUT...

THINGS YOU CAN ONLY DO AS PART OF A TEAM.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T DO ALONE.

DELICIOUS
RAMEN!
OPEN
¥700

I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED IT, BUT TAWARA'S PRETTY MUCH LEADING OUR TEAM.

HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE WANTS TO BE CAPTAIN, BUT HE'D PROBABLY MAKE A GOOD ONE.

AS A FORMER CHILD ACTOR, HE'S PRETTY BALLSY, AND HE'S SMARTER THAN MOST.

CK

フーッ"フーッ

WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM...

...YOU CAN ASK FOR HELP.

I WAS NEVER ABLE TO DO THAT BEFORE THE DO-OVER.

HOW ABOUT YOU AND THE GIRLS, USAMI?

OSU.

ONE APPROACH WOULD BE TO REIN HIM IN A LITTLE WITH THE RESPONSI-BILITY OF BEING CAPTAIN.

ON OUR TEAM, I'VE HAD A LAUGH SEEING HIRO-KUN GET MOTI-VATED.

HE'S SHARP. HE'S THE TYPE WHO CAN DO A PRETTY GOOD JOB, BUT IS NEVER GREAT, AT ANYTHING.

IT'S HEAVEN NOT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH FOUL-MOUTHED GUYS LIKE YOU, CAPTAIN KONDO.

I HEAR YOU!

CLAP

CLAP

WITH SHIBATA ON BOARD NOW, WE'VE GOT A GREAT TEAM ENVIRONMENT GOING ON.

BUT SHE'S VERY RECEPTIVE TO WHAT I TEACH HER.

FUJIEDA HAS A LONG WAY TO GO IN EVERY SENSE.

THAT'S THE THING!

SEE ...

ガヨ!!
CLATTER

SO, I TAKE IT YOU'D RATHER IMAMURA *NOT* BE CAPTAIN? HE'S PRETTY FOUL-MOUTHED HIMSELF, AFTER ALL.

WELL ...

IT'S IMA-MURA.

I WANT HIM TO DO THE BEST JOB HE CAN AS THE CAPTAIN OF KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN.

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU TWO FOR HELP.

YEAH, YEAH. WE KNOW.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO, BUT HERE WE ARE.

GULP GULP

I THINK HE'D HAVE BEEN CAPTAIN WHETHER WE SHOWED UP OR NOT, HONESTLY.

IMA-MURA STILL DOESN'T HAVE PRIDE IN THE OUEN-DAN. HE DOESN'T LOVE IT.

I WANT HIM TO SEE WHAT THE OUENDAN WAS LIKE WHEN I LOOKED UP TO YOU!

I WANT HIM TO BE PROUD OF IT!

I CAN'T WITH-DRAW AS CAP-TAIN! OTHER-WISE,

SORRY.

OH!

OSU.

...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

USAMI, TALK TO CAPTAIN KONDO ABOUT THE REST.

FUCK

OKAY. THANKS FOR TODAY!

I'VE GOTTA GO.

I GOT A TEXT FROM MY FOLKS SAYING THEY WANT HELP AT THE SHOP.

ガタッ

CLATTER

OH...

SORRY.

SLURP

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

SLURRRP

BACK THEN, YOU NEVER CAME TO US FOR ADVICE.

HEY, USAMI. REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE INSISTING ON KEEPING THE OUENDAN GOING DESPITE BEING THE ONLY MEMBER?

SLURRRP!

SLURP

THAT'S WHY I'M REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE YOU RELY ON ME LIKE THIS.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

YOU'VE CHANGED, USAMI.

SUMI

MAYBE.

I GUESS IT COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IMAMURA SHOWING UP IN OUR WORLD...

Again!!

アゲイン!!

120. LOVE BEYOND THE STREAM



WHOA.

DO YOU LIKE IMAMURA, USAMI?

YOU BELIEVE HIS STORY ABOUT THE "DO-OVER"?

DON'T TELL ME ...

OH, GOD.

IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE HIM. I'M JUST GRATEFUL, OR...

I GUESS I DON'T REALLY CARE WHETHER THE STUFF ABOUT THE DO-OVER IS REALLY TRUE OR NOT.

JUST, HOW TO PUT THIS?

WELL, I MEAN ...

CHEW...

SLURRP

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.

SO, WHAT IS IT THAT'S MOTIVATING HIM?

AND THE MORE I GOT TO KNOW HIM, THE MORE I REALIZED HE'S NOT THE TYPE FOR IT AT ALL. HE'S NEGATIVE, ALOOF, OPINIONATED, AND HAS A SHORT FUSE.

HE SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE TO SAVE THE OUENDAN WHEN HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

HE PROBABLY FEELS THE SAME WAY YOU DID WHEN YOU SAW ME AND DECIDED TO JOIN THE OUENDAN.

I MEAN ...

SQUEEZE

GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE?

HEY.

OH! WOULD YOU TWO RATHER HAVE SOME TIME ALONE?

GET OUT

...

YAY!

NO, YOU'RE GOOD!

?!

ABE-TAMA ?!

WHY ARE YOU HERE ?

I'M STARV-ING.

FWISH

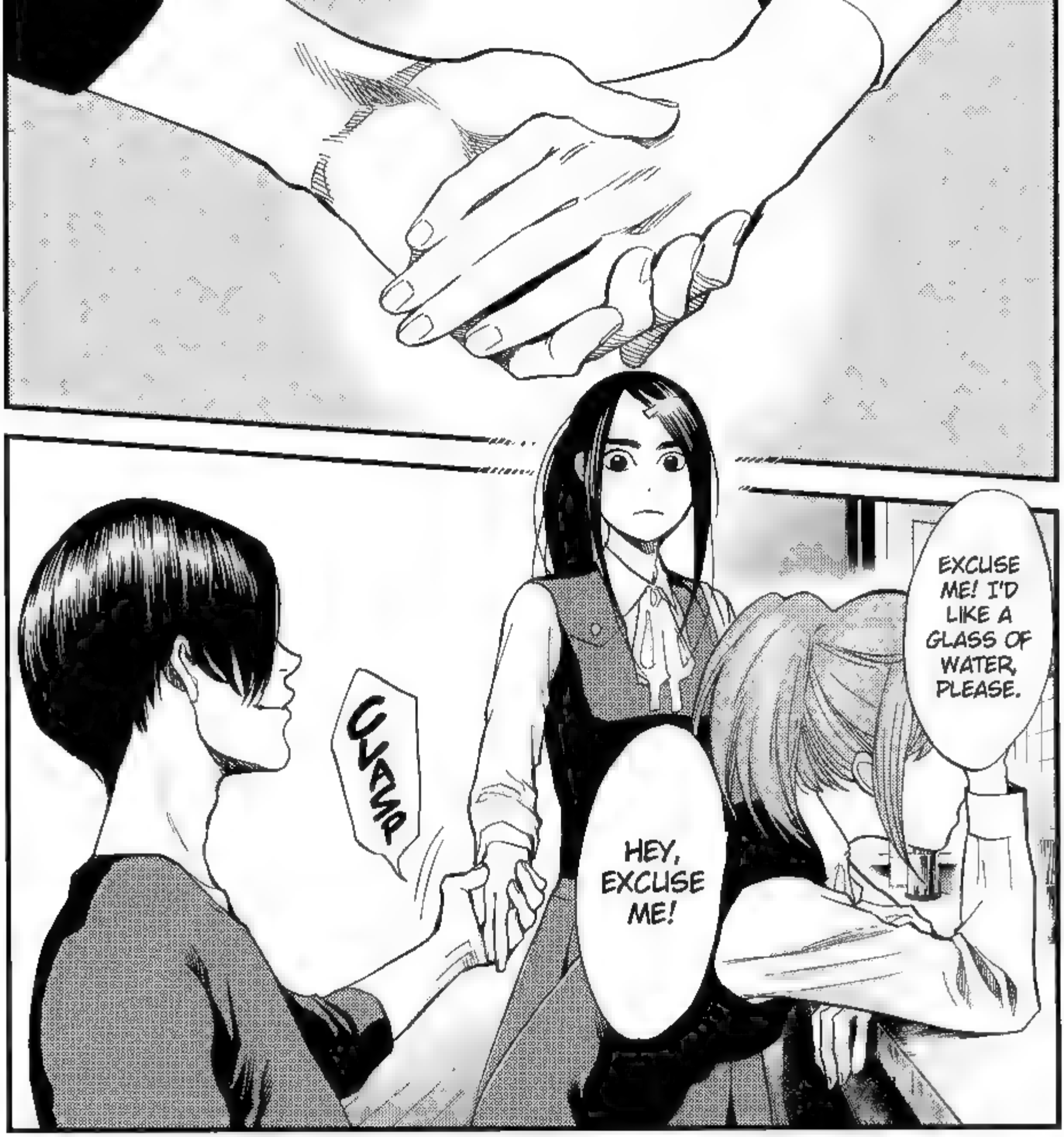
HEY, SENPAI. WHAT DID YOU HAVE?

SEE YOU LATER THEN! BYE!

'KAY!

I THINK I'LL BE GOING.

WELL, I'M STUFFED.


EXCUSE ME! I'D LIKE A GLASS OF WATER, PLEASE.
HEY, EXCUSE ME!
GRAB


GOOD NIGHT.

RUB RUB

GULP

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

RAMEN!

BOILED EGGS

I'M TIRED.

I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE

WE'LL HAVE TO PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE IT ORIGINAL!

WAS JUST THE VERY BASICS.

ISN'T THE OUENDAN SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT PRACTICING SO HARD IT NEARLY KILLS YOU, AND SHOWING OFF THE RESULTS?

DOES ANYONE

SO WE CAN CHEER IN OUR

FIND YOUR LOOK!

WE'LL CHEER YOU ON!

NOW OPEN!

RIGHT!

D-SUGUSTING

THWUNK!!!

SHUT UP!

I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT FROM SOME MASCOT!

FIND YOUR LOOK! WE'LL CHEER YOU ON!

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

AAAGH, AND HERE I JUST GOT DONE BRAGGING ABOUT HOW MY CHEERING WOULD BE MORE FUN THAN HIS.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

DAMN IT!

HUH?

WHERE DO YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

KABOSU MINAMI?

WHIRL

THEY'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THIS! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D ATTACK SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.

I'VE BEEN AT IT SINCE THIS MORNING...

I'M DONE.

HANG IN THERE!

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I-I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

HE JUST FELL OVER.

I'll do it! PLONK!

WHOA!

SWIP! SWOOP!

FWOOM

WE'RE SORRY! WE'LL DO ANYTHING!

HE WAS ALREADY FALLING OVER WHEN-

WAIT A SECOND!

HANG IN THERE, IMAMURA-KUN!

GUH ...

FIND YOUR LOOK! WE'LL CHEER YOU ON!

KAEDE'S LOCATION
RUNWAY FASHION CENTER

COME ON, SAY SOME-THING!

HE MUST BE FIL-THY!

HE REEKS!

DO SOME-THING, SILLY RABBIT!

UGH, THIS RABBIT SUCKS.

STU-PID!

BWA HA HA HA HA

GASP

IMA-MURA-KUN!

NOT OKAY!!

GUH...

HFFF...

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

WHAT'S HE DOING?

BRUSH YOUR TEETH AND GO TO BED!

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE DEMANDS, THEN PAY UP! YOU JOBLESS BRATS!

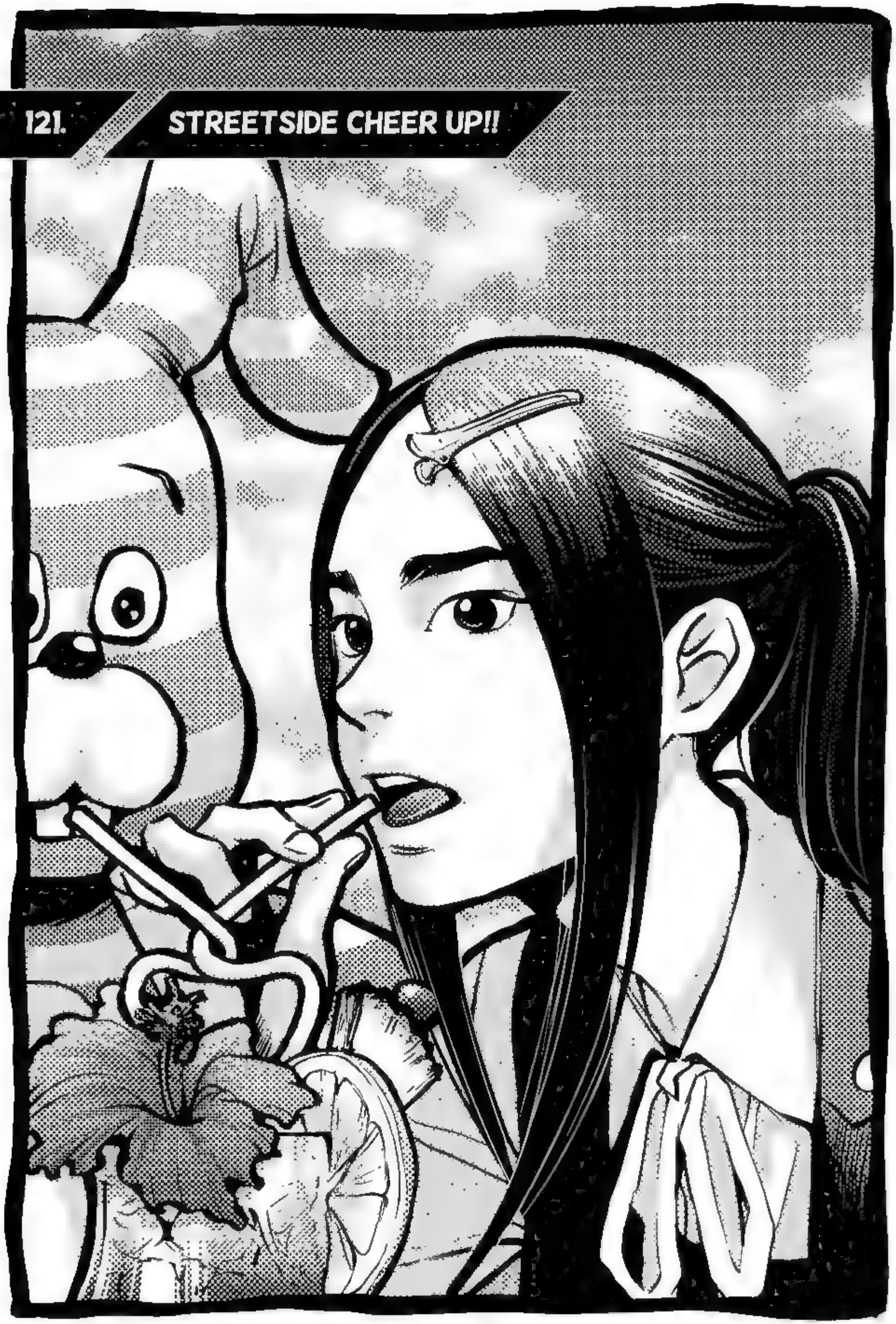
WHIFF

WHIFF

WHIFF

THE DUM DAKKA CHEER!

121. STREETSIDE CHEER UP!!



DUM DAKKA

DUM DAKKA TAK TAK!

TAK TAK!

WEIRD

WHAT'S THAT?

DSU STATI

SHOULD WE CALL THE POLICE?

IS THAT A FURRY?

LOOK AT THAT MASCOT DANCE.

WHO IS THAT?

DA DUM DAK

DUM!!

A-ONE-TWO!

HE'S GOT THOSE MOVES DOWN PAT.

THRUST

THRUST

BOING

BWA HA HA HA HA...


NONE OF YOU'D CARE ABOUT ME IF I WASN'T WEARING A BUNNY SUIT, BUT I PUT IT ON, AND SUDDENLY YOU'RE ALL OVERJOYED!
WOOO
LET'S GOOOO!
WOOO!
LET'S GOOOO!
LET'S GOOOO!
ASS-HOLES
WOOO
GET A PICTURE NAOKI!

YEAH, CHEER FOR ME!

DO ME TOO!

GRAAH!

WOH?

FWISH

LET'S GO! LET'S GO! MA-KO-TO!

LET'S GO! LET'S GO! MA-KO-TO!

FWISH

FWISH

GORILLA

SPARKLE

LET'S GO! LET'S GO! RYU-JI!

LET'S GO! LET'S GO! RYU-JI!

HIT IT OUTTA THE PARK!

FWISH

FWISH

FWISH

FWISH

LET'S GO! LET'S GO! TO-MO-YA!

LET'S GO! LET'S GO! TO-MO-YA!

UMM, EX-CUSE ME.

I GIVE UP.

IT'S NO USE. I CAN'T KEEP GOING.

HUFF

HGGHH

WOOOOO

IWA-MURA-KUN!

WHEEEEE

PAANT

WHEEEEE

HI.

WOULD YOU MIND CHEERING FOR ME, TOO?

MY NAME'S HIROKI.

ズサッ

YOU SAID YOU'RE HIROKI-SAN, RIGHT?

OH!

I GUESS NOT. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

SHUF ?...

HUH?

SHIF

WHO...

UHHH...

THIS IS GOOD PRAC-TICE.

LET'S TRY IT!

WE CHEER IN YOUR HONOR!

HI-RO-KI-SAN, YOU CAN DO IT!

TAK TAK!!

DADUM!

HI-RO-KI!

HOORAY!

HI-RO-KI!

HOORAY!

HI-RO-KI!

HOORAY!

...

TAK TAK!

DA DUM!

BSSSHH

THANK YOU.

DID WE DO SOME-THING WRONG?!

WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

WAIT, WHAT?!

IT'S JUST, NO ONE'S CHEERED ME ON LIKE THAT IN A LONG TIME.

HEY, THAT REMINDS ME

WOOO

KEEP AT IT MISTER!

YOU CAN DO IT!

WOOO

HEY!

COULD YOU CHEER ME ON NEXT?

EVERY-ONE WILL GET THEIR TURN!

PLEASE FORM AN ORDERLY LINE.

WE WANT YOU TO CHEER FOR US.

ARE YOU GUYS STREET PER-FORM-ERS?

DASH!!

THAT'S IT FOR TODAY!

SORRY!

ACK!

IMA-MURA-KUN?

DEAD

IMA-MURA-KUN!

YOU CAN DO IT!

YOU CAN DO IT!

IMAMURA!

THAT TIME THEY CHEERED FOR ME...

...I ENDED UP CRYING FOR SOME REASON.

DRIP

COME BACK SOON!

I WAS THE SAME WAY.

OH, THAT COS-TUME?

YOU CAN BUY IT IN ANY MAJOR STORE.

THE BARGAIN FORTRESS

BLACK STRIP

IN FACT, WE HAVE IT HERE.

WE'LL TAKE TWO!

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THESE STUPID COSTUMES, CHAN-KUMA?

THEY'LL BE LIKE *WEIGHTED TRAINING CLOTHES!*

LET'S DO ALL OUR PRACTICE FOR THE MARATHON WEARING THESE!

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE'LL FEEL LIKE WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING IF WE CHEER FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED IT!

THAT SHOULD IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO ENDURE HEAT AND BREAK THROUGH OUR RESISTANCE TO SHAME.

RIGHT ?!

I GUESS IT *WAS* REFRESHING TO BREAK OUT OF MY SHELL AND JUST GO FOR IT...

WELL ...

DIDN'T YOU HAVE FUN CHEERING LAST NIGHT, IMAMURA-KUN?

COME ON.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HELL, MAYBE WE COULD MAKE SOME MONEY...

AND TALKING MASCOTS LIKE THIS GUY WILL BE REALLY POPULAR IN THE FUTURE, TOO.

...

SIGH ...

USAMI!!

FLINCH

COULD IT BE YOU-KNOW-WHAT?

MAYBE ...

YEAH.

SPACE

CAPTAIN USAMI SEEMS KINDA OFF.

FSSH!!

OSU!

THEY'RE GOING VERY WELL!

HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR THE GIRLS' TEAM?

...

FSSHH

CHAK

O-OSU!

PAT

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT OUR USUAL PLACE AFTER PRACTICE.

I CAN GIVE YOU SOME TIPS.

HEY, CAPTAIN USAMI, DO YOU LIKE SUMMER-HIKO-SENPAI?

ARE YOU GUYS DATING?

I MEAN, HE'S OBVIOUSLY INTO HER.

STOP IT!

ROAR

...BUT I CAN'T LOOK AT SOMEONE WHO USED TO BE MY CLUBMATE AS A LOVE INTEREST!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTER HE WENT OFF TO COLLEGE ...

SUMMER-HIKO'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT ROMANCE AND THE OUENDAN DON'T MIX!

GRRR

EVEN THOUGH YOU GUYS KISSED AND ALL.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A CRUSH ON IMAMURA.

OHHH.

THAT'S RIGHT...

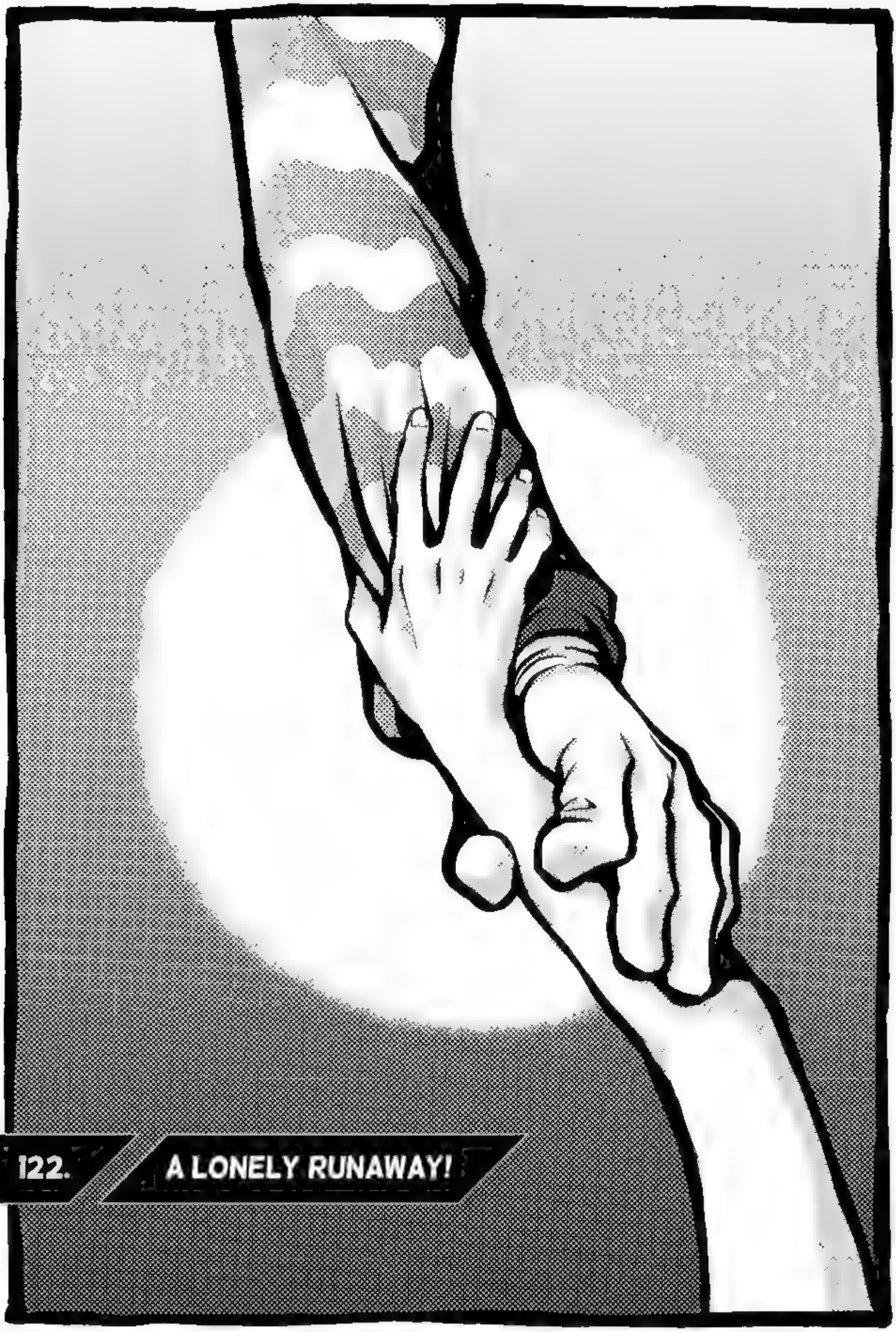
I SEE IMAMURA AS A DEAR CLUBMATE...

DUM TAKKA TAK TAK

DUM TAKKA TAK TAK

Again!!

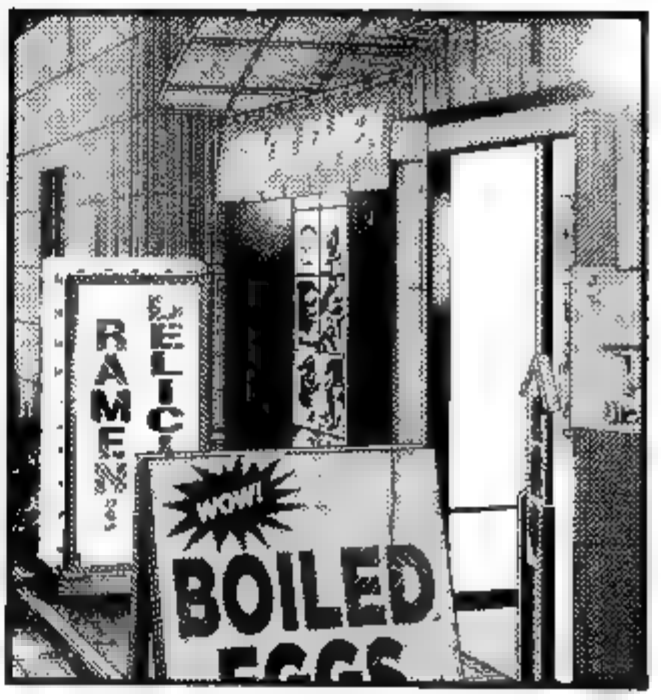
アゲイン!!


122.
A LONELY RUNAWAY!

GET THIS, CAPTAIN KONDO!

AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO SLEEP AT FUJIEDA'S HOUSE EVERY NIGHT!

ON THE GIRLS' TEAM, WE'VE DECIDED WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE LATE EVERY DAY UNTIL THE MARATHON! WE'RE GOING HARD!





WHAT ABOUT IT?

HUH.

THAT'S NICE.

WHAT ARE YOU SORRY FOR?

SO...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET YOU HERE ANYMORE AFTER TONIGHT. SORRY.

HEY, CAPTAIN KONDO! WANT SOME GYOZA?! LET'S HAVE SOME GYOZA! EXCUSE ME, POPS? WE'D LIKE SOME GYOZA, PLEASE!

FWISH!!!

SNIFF

SNIFF

OH, USAMI. YOU SMELL SO GOOD.

NOPE!

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME?

TINK

Here's your gyoza.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU...

...FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

PLOP

WELL, USAMI ...

しーん……

WHAM

ooo

UH...

AH... AAAHH...

THE CAPTAIN KONDO I KNEW ALWAYS WORE HIS UNIFORM, NO MATTER THE TIME OR PLACE!

HOW CAN YOU DRESS LIKE SOME HIPSTER? IS THAT ANY WAY TO REPRESENT YOUR OUENDAN?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AT COLLEGE?!

THE WAY YOU ARE NOW DISGUSTS ME!

WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?! YOU NEVER USED TO ACT LIKE YOU WERE ATTRACTED TO ME!

YOU USED TO BE SO MUCH COOLER!

THOSE GYOZA ARE GONNA GET COLD

JUMP

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

DELICIOUS RAMEN!

OPEN

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

DUM DUM DUM!!

KABOSU STATION

CHATTER CHATTER

DING

WOW

SHWING

SHWING

SHWING

WOW!

HOORAY! HOORAY! KA-ZU-KO! HOORAY! HOORAY! KA-ZU-KO!

KA-ZU-KO! HIT IT OUTTA THE PARK!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

BOW

WASN'T THAT NICE, MOM?

SHWIP

TAK TAK!

O-

OSU!

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

WOOO

DAMN, THE CROWD'S EVEN BIGGER THAN YESTERDAY.

WE CAN'T GIVE MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES.

NOT IN THESE OUTFITS.

I WANNA SEE SOME MORE!

WOOO

WOOO

WOOO

DO ME AGAIN!

?!

THUMP

WOOOO

MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE WAY WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CHEER.

BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT BE HAPPY TO MAKE ALL THESE PEOPLE SMILE.

WOOO!

WOOOO

BWA HA HA HA

YOU'RE BORING US!

DO SOME-THING COOL, RABBIT.

TUG

HEY,

GET A LOAD OF THIS RABBIT.

OF COURSE ...

HE'S SO STUPID!

BWA HA HA HA HA! LOOK AT HIM GROVEL!

YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE.

GET A PIC-TURE!

THAT'S HILAR-'OUS!

...

COME AT ME!

YOU ASS-HOLES!

HEY!

CUT IT OUT!

OVER HERE, PUNKS!

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND PICK A FIGHT, IMAMURA-KUN?

EVERYTHING WOULD'VE BEEN FINE IF YOU GROVELED LIKE ME!

NOT THE BUN-NY!

THE BUNNY'S GETTING BEAT UP!

IT JUST MAKES ME WANT TO TRY NEW THINGS.

IT'S THE COSTUME...

BAM

MOSHIINE

GUH ?!

GAH ?!

CAP-TAIN ?!

FWISH

BADUMP

GLOMP

A STRIPED BUNNY!

GWOO FWOOOSH

CAPTAIN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

PANT

WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MA-MURA ?!

PANT

PANT

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

BAGA

BOOONG

IT'S GOT NOTH-ING TO DO WITH YOU.

DON'T ASK.

WAIT, WHAT?

HER FACE ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT THAN NORMAL.

SHIF

SO CUTE!

ROAR

DON'T GIVE ME THAT ATTI-TUDE!

SHUF

PLOP

ROAR

IMA-MURA!

ARE YOU THAT SIMPLE, WOMAN ?!

PANT

PANT

G-GUH ...

SO CUTE ...

PANT

Again!!

アゲイン!!


123. YOU DON'T MAKE MY HEART SING

SO CUTE ...

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WEAR THIS OUTFIT AND SHE LOOKS AT ME WITH PUPPY-DOG EYES.

OH MY GOD.

GULP

GLOMP

CAP-TAIN!

IMA-MURA!

YOU WILL STOP THIS UN-SEEMLY CHEERING AT ONCE!

YOU ARE NOT TO STAIN THE LEGACY OF OUR GLORIOUS SCHOOL!

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT PEOPLE WOULD SAY IF THEY FOUND OUT KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN PULLED A STUNT LIKE THAT?!

YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU WERE CHEERING IN FRONT OF THE STATION WEARING THOSE COSTUMES ?!

ワッ

YOU'RE NO BETTER, FLIRTING WITH SUMMERHIKO OVER RAMEN!

WHAT ?!

I DON'T SEE THE ISSUE. I THOUGHT IT WAS FUN.

AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU GOT IN A FIGHT AND HAD TO RUN AWAY? ARE YOU EVEN AWARE THAT SOME OF THE BEST BASEBALL TEAMS HAVE BEEN FORBIDDEN FROM PLAYING IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BECAUSE OF SCANDALS LIKE THAT?!

WE WERE NOT FLIRT-

GUH ...

STOP BEING SO CUTE!

DON'T TAKE YOUR GUILTY CONSCIENCE OUT ON MR. BUNNY, LITTLE GIRL.

SHUP

HRK!

HIMI

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

INCHI

JUST, YOU'RE WEARING THAT CUTE MASK, AND...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT IT UP!

YEAH, TELL US WHAT YOU SAID!

WHAT DID YOU SAY, CAPTAIN?

UUUUUNH...

I HUMILIATED SUMMER-HIKO.

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

AGH ...

UNH ...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT.

OH GOD ...

BUT...

DON'T YOU LIKE SUMMER-HIKO?

THAT IS CRUEL!

AND THEN I RAN AWAY.

AND HE WAS COOLER BEFORE HE WENT TO COLL-EGE.

AND HE DIS-GUSTS ME NOW.

THAT HE DRESS-ES LIKE SOME HIP-STER.

THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE OUEN-DAN.

TO BE HON-EST,

WHEN WE FIRST MET, I THOUGHT HE WAS SO COOL IT GAVE ME CHILLS.

SO, IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER WANTED TO BE IN A RELATION-SHIP WITH HIM OR ANYTHING.

HE'S PRETTY SILLY WHEN YOU GET TO KNOW HIM, TOO.

AND I WAS HAPPY TO HAVE HIM TREAT ME LIKE A PEER.

BUT...

HE NEVER TREATED ME DIFFERENT FROM ANY OF THE GUYS WHEN HE WAS OUR CAPTAIN.

GIRLS ARE SCARY.

YOU KNOW HOW, SOMETIMES, YOU ONLY REALIZE SOMEONE IS WRONG FOR YOU AFTER THEY'VE STARTED TO SHOW INTEREST?

FORGET EVERY-THING I SAID!

JOLT

I WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU ALL THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT CUTE MASK!

OH, NO!

GASP

NOW GO HOME!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS, IMA-MURA!

BOOONG

WAGH

FWISH

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO WITH SUMMER-HIKO FROM HERE?

WELL,

NOW THEN,

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN HOW WE'LL DO THINGS AT THE *KABOSU CITY MARATHON.*

OSU!

IEY'LL BE

SOME OF THEM WILL BE RUNNING A HALF MARATHON, A 5K, OR A 3K.

MOST OF THE RUNNERS WON'T BE PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES

KABOSU CITY MARATHON

WE'LL BE CHEERING AT FOUR LOCATIONS.

EACH TEAM WILL BE ASSIGNED TO ONE OF THEM.

AND THE SECOND

THE FIRST

THE

YEAH, THESE LOCATION CHOICES AREN'T EXACTLY FAIR.

YEAH, YEAH. THAT'S WHY WE'LL ASSIGN POSITIONS BY DRAWING LOTS.

THE SECOND CHECKPOINT IS WAY TOO FAR OUT. ONLY THE PEOPLE RUNNING A HALF OR FULL MARATHON WILL EVEN MAKE IT THERE, AND IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYBODY ELSE TO CHEER FOR.

IF WE DO THAT, THEN THE TEAM ASSIGNED TO THE START-FINISH LINE WILL GET MORE ATTENTION THAN THE OTHERS.

FUZZ

JUST A SECOND.

OUENDAN!

CHEERING AT THE START-FINISH LINE WILL BE...

...THE HAND-SOME TEAM!

START-FINISH

OKAY, THEN!

AT CHECK-POINT ONE ...

...THE GIRLS!

AT THE 5K HALF-WAY POINT ...

...THE FAT TEAM!

AND AT CHECK-POINT TWO...

...THE FREAKS!

THAT'S ALL!

ANY QUES-TIONS?

EXCUSE ME.

WHEN WILL WE BE STARTING, AND HOW LATE WILL WE GO?

WE SHOULD WEAR OUR BLAZERS, RIGHT?

CHATTER

CHATTER

IMA-MURA!

YESTER-DAY,

I TALKED TO CAPTAIN USAMI ABOUT IT.

SHE TOLD ME TO STOP THIS UNSEEMLY CHEERING.

ガチャ

WE'D LIKE TO DO OUR CHEERING IN COSTUME. WILL THAT BE ALL RIGHT?

D-DON'T DO THAT!

DO YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?

IT'S GONNA FALL SO FLAT!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SHAME?

YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD! LAME!

...

YOU REALLY WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS?

I'M NOT JOKING.

I'M SERIOUS.

I THINK IT'LL BE FUN, SO I DON'T SEE THE ISSUE.

UHHHooo

HUH?

I'M BAD AT DANCING, I'M SHORT, AND I DON'T HAVE MUCH STAMINA.

AND EVEN AS FAR AS THE OUENDAN'S CONCERNED, I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT MATTERS IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE CAPTAIN.

I'M FAR FROM THE KIND OF AGREEABLE YOUNG MAN WHO CAN CHARM ANYONE HE MEETS.

AFTER SEEING SUMMERHIKO AND CAPTAIN USAMI DO THEIR THING, I'VE FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT.

LIKE ...

TAP

TAP

WHAT MATTERS IS IF YOU CAN STAND PROUD NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A FOOL YOU MAKE OF YOURSELF!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW STRONG I AM WHERE IT COUNTS: IN THE HEART!

POW

WOW.

UNTIL THE MARATHON THIS WEEKEND,

EACH TEAM IS TO CONTINUE PRACTICING.

OSU!

LET ME SEE YOUR HEART OF STEEL.

YOU BETTER GIVE THIS YOUR ALL, TOO. I DON'T CARE IF YOUR HEART'S BROKEN.

WHY, WHAT EVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

UNH...

UUUNH...

ALL RIGHT.

I DON'T HAVE ANY...

I'M INTRIGUED.

SHOW ME, THEN.

Imamura...

YOU TOO, CAPTAIN.

SHOW ME THE STRENGTH OF YOUR HEART.

I GUESS THAT MEANS *I'M* THE ONE BEST SUITED TO BE CAPTAIN.

WELL, MY EXPERIENCE ON STAGE HAS PREPARED MINE FOR THIS.

HE SAYS CHEERING'S ABOUT STRENGTH OF THE HEART, HUH?

ROCK

ROCK

HIRO, JUST BECAUSE YOUR HEART'S AS COLD AS STEEL DOESN'T MEAN IT'S AS STRONG.

HEH HEH HEH ...

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CAPTAIN, AFTER ALL.

That's annoying.

AAAGH...

STRENGTH OF THE HEART, HUH? MINE'S PRETTY WEAK.

NO, IT'S NOT!

NO, SERIOUSLY, THOUGH. I'VE GOT LIKE A HEART OF GLASS.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT SOME-THING TO PROTECT IT.

GRAAA

AHHH

RUN, CHAN-KUMA! BEFORE THE COPS CATCH US!

THAT'S AN AMBU-LANCE, IMAMURA-KUN!

WEEEE

WOOO

WEEEE

WOOO

WEEEE

124. STRENGTH OF THE HEART



金物店

SHOOOOOOOO...

I'M SO TIIIIRED.

WHY DO THEY HAVE TO START THE MARATHON SO DAMN EARLY?

BOSU CITY MARAT

ROADS CLOSED 8:30 AM–12:30 PM

KABOSU POLICE DEPT. - KABOSU CITY GOVERNMENT - KA

H'CHATTER

H'CHATTER

H'CHATTER

H'CHATTER

H'CHATTER

UGH.

IT'S BULL-SHIT.

OH!

HERE'S MY STOP.

KABOSU MARATHON

WOW.

THIS MARATHON DRAWS A DECENT CROWD FOR A SMALL-ASS TOWN LIKE KABOSU.

I GUESS THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS.

"CHATTER"

GLANCE

GLANCE

KABOSU MARATHON

KABOSU CITY

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE TOZAI DOME BEFORE.

CHATTER CHATTER

SO MANY PEOPLE SHOWED UP TO WATCH.

IT'S LIKE A FESTIVAL OR SOMETHING.

KABOSU CITY MARATHON

QUENDAN

"DUN"...

HUH?

THAT'S NOT FAIR, CAPTAIN KONDO! YOU CAN'T JUST SET UP A STAGE FOR YOUR OWN TEAM AND NO ONE ELSE!

WHAT'S WITH THIS STAGE ...?

WE *HAVE* TO GIVE PEOPLE A SHOW AT THE START-FINISH LINE.

AND I THINK THIS STAGE SUITS OUR TEAM WELL.

I MEAN ...

WHY NOT?

THE THREE OF US SPENT ALL MORNING WORKING ON IT, RIGHT, GUYS?

OSU.

ACTUALLY, YOU MADE THE TWO OF US GET UP AT 5 A.M. TO DO IT.

WELL, YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US!

BUT WE'VE ALREADY GOT A WORSE SPOT!

WHOA.

I DESIGNED THEM MYSELF! ♥

BIG SUR-PRISE.

YOU WANT PEOPLE TO FAWN OVER YOU LIKE POP STARS OR SOMETHING, HUH?

NO!

OF COURSE THEY'RE EMBAR-RASSING!

JUST LOOK AT YOUR OWN TEAM. DON'T YOU FIND THOSE OUTFITS EMBAR-RASS-ING?

YOU CAN MAKE FUN OF US ALL YOU WANT.

FEH

BUT YOUR PRETTY BOY ACT WILL ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.

THEY'RE GONNA BE A HUNDRED TIMES MORE INSPIRED TO HAVE GIRLS LIKE US CHEERING FOR THEM.

THAT'S THE KIND OF TIMES WE'RE LIVING IN.

I DON'T THINK YOUR POP STAR THING IS GONNA GO OVER SO WELL.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

WE'RE THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE ON THAT STAGE!

HEH.

YES!

KWISH

NO ...

WHERE ARE YOUR BLAZ-ERS?

IT'S STILL TOO HOT OUT TO BE WEARING TRENCH COATS.

WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS?

WE HAVE STAN-DARDS, YOU KNOW!

FUCK

DON'T GIVE UP!

VICTORY

HERE'S WHAT MEN REALLY WANT.

I CAN SEE WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM, BUT I'M NOT CONFIDENT WE'LL BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU GUYS.

HMM.

THE AUDI-ENCE WILL APPRE-CIATE BEING CHALL-ENGED.

THE HANDSOME TEAM WILL GIVE THE STANDARD PERFORMANCE, SO WE'RE FREE TO TRY SOMETHING BOLDER.

IT'S FINE.

IMA-MURA-KUN!

YOU'RE LATE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?

AT THIS RATE, OUR COSTUMES WON'T EVEN STAND OUT THAT MUCH.

OH MY.

YOU GUYS HAVE ALL COME UP WITH SUCH COOL IDEAS!

OH MY GOD.

THIS IS THE CITY MARA-THON, AFTER ALL.

THE SAME OLD THING JUST WOULDN'T DO.

HEH HEH HEH ...

I ASSURE YOU, WE'LL BE THE ONES WHO'LL SHINE THE BRIGHTEST. BUT,

SHWING!

I STILL THINK WE SHOULD CHEER THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY!

J-JUST THIS ONCE!

SHUDDER

HEY, SUMMER-HIKO.

IT'S TIME TO SHOW WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO MAKE SURE THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE KABOSU MINAMI OUENDAN!

SHUDDER

HI.

LONG TIME NO SEE. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN.

?

HE KNOWS THEM?

WHO ARE THEY?

HUH?

They look sort of old...

FWISH

YOU QUIT YOUR COLLEGE OUENDAN ?!

Wait, what?

THAT'S NEWS TO US!

Those guys can't be college students.. can they?

GOD, SUMMER-HIKO!

SO THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO SINCE QUITTING THE COLLEGE OUENDAN?

AND YOU HID IT FROM THESE KIDS, SUMMER-HIKO?

YOU ALWAYS WANT TO LOOK GOOD.

YOU *DO* REALIZE WHY YOU WERE HAVING TROUBLE FITTING IN, RIGHT?

H" H"FSSSSH

WHENEVER WE WOULD MAKE FUN OF YOU FOR BUYING NAME-BRAND CLOTHES DESPITE BEING BROKE, YOU'D JUST LAUGH IT OFF. YOU GOTTA TAKE STUFF LIKE THAT MORE SERIOUSLY!

AND YOU NEVER PUT IN THE WORK AT PRACTICE, EITHER.

WE CAME TO CHECK UP ON YOU. WE'VE BEEN WORRIED.

GIVE ME A BREAK!

AND THIS SIDESHOW ACT IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT?

ONLY TO GO BACK TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL OUENDAN.

SO, YOU RAN AWAY FROM YOUR COLLEGE OUENDAN,

WE DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK THIS IS WHAT AN OUENDAN IS ALL ABOUT!

YOU MUST REALIZE EVERYONE'S LAUGHING AT YOU.

GIGGLE GIGGLE

GIGGLE GIGGLE

GIGGLE GIGGLE

PUT A STOP TO THIS BEFORE YOU HUMILIATE US EVEN MORE. WHAT'RE YOU MADE OF?! PLEASE.

SAY SOME-THING.

SUM-MER-HIKO!

OR HAS YOUR BRAIN SHUT DOWN, LIKE USUAL?

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU...

...FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

IJOU

WELL, USAMI ...

GASP

...

HE'S REALLY AMAZING.

YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT SUMMER-HIKO-SENPAI.

TRY TO MAKE A FOOL OF HIM ALL YOU WANT. HE'LL NEVER LET HIMSELF THINK HE'S WRONG FOR IT.

WE'RE STRONG IN OUR HEARTS,

AND YOU'LL FIND OUT JUST HOW STRONG WHEN YOU SEE US CHEERING FOR THE RUNNERS IN THIS MARA-THON.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH LOOKING GOOD.

?!

IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?

WHAT'S WITH YOU?

HEH.

AND I DON'T JUST LOOK GOOD.

I AM GOOD, SO GET IT RIGHT,

SENPAI.

WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT THE KANAN OUENDAN CAN REALLY DO!

TOZAI 00

KABOSU CITY MARATHON

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 12!

THIS IS THE AFTERWORD!

Volume 11! There are some things that only become visible once you've come this far.

And there are some things I can only do because I've walked this path.

I'm excited to draw Volume 12!

Mitsurou Kubo, January 2014

2014.1. 久保ミツロウ☆

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IN VOLUME 12...

14TH KABOSU CITY MARATHON START

THE MARATHON STARTS!

AND WITH IT, A RUTHLESS BATTLE OF CHEERS!

KINICHIRO WAS NEVER GOING TO HAVE IT EASY, BUT WHAT IF HIS AND OKUMA'S ACT IS TOO SIMILAR TO A CERTAIN POPULAR CHARACTER'S?!

CAN I TAKE A PIC-TURE?

EEE!♥ HE'S SO COOL!

WAAA

MARATHON

WAAA

OVER HERE, BL-KUN!

BAD LUCK? NO PROBLEM! IF NOBODY KNOWS WHO THEY ARE, THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW THEM!

AND THESE LOSERS ARE GOING TO DANCE LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!

THEY'VE GOT A BIGGER AUDIENCE THAN EVER,



Again!!
アゲイン!!
VOLUME 12
COMING SOON!

Again!! 11

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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